

Sheikh Jaber meets Qasem

KUWAIT (Petra) — Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Wednesday received Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi, who are in Kuwait to attend the meeting of the six-member Arab ministerial committee entrusted with finding a solution to the Lebanese problem. The meeting started here Wednesday (see story below). The committee was meeting with representatives of the Lebanese Front, which represent the mostly Christian right-wing in Lebanon. Sheikh Jaber's meeting with Qasem and Kibi was attended by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, who is chairman of the Arab League committee on Lebanon.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Volume 14 Number 4061

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 13-14, 1989, RAMADAN 7-8, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior officials receive Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak upon his arrival in Amman Wednesday for a several-hour visit (Petra photo)

Rifai outlines outcome of Baghdad meetings

ACC committee approves wide-ranging accords

AMMAN (J.T.) — The prime ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ended three days of talks in Baghdad Wednesday after drawing up agreements covering the administrative and legal structures of the four-member council and economic, defence and security matters of its member states.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who led the Jordanian delegation to the Baghdad meeting, said upon his return home Wednesday that the conference approved the rules and procedures for ACC activities and agreements governing the ACC headquarters, privileges and status of ACC officials and the council's statute and financial regulations.

Rifai said the prime ministerial committee also approved draft agreements on security coordination, national and regional security and movement and recruitment of ACC manpower.

Also approved were agreements on legal and judicial cooperation and air transport and civil aviation among the ACC member states.

Rifai told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the meeting also decided that Jordanian perceptions be accepted as guidelines for scopes of future cooperation and that the Jordanian concepts serve as basis for the agenda for the next prime ministerial committee meeting.

The prime ministers reviewed potential candidates for the post of ACC secretary general and finalised a list of nominees, Rifai said.

The prime minister said all



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai is seen off by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan upon his departure from Baghdad Wednesday (Petra photo)

recommendations, agreements and resolutions reached by the Baghdad meeting would be submitted to a summit of the four ACC heads of state in Cairo after the 'Eid Al Fitr and would come into force after endorsement by the summit.

In a statement he issued upon departure from Baghdad earlier, Rifai said the meetings were positive and friendly and dominated by a brotherly atmosphere. He said the participants voiced determination and resolve to achieve the objectives of the ACC.

Rifai thanked Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan and the Iraqi government for their efforts, which, he said, contributed to the success of the meeting.

Ramadan, who headed the Iraqi side during the talks, described the agreements reached as "vital

and reflecting the great expectations of the peoples of the four countries."

"The important achievements we accomplished are evidence that we are moving on the correct way to fulfil our people's expectations," Ramadan told a press briefing after the meetings at Baghdad's conference centre ended.

Ramadan said the meeting agreed on a wide range issues, including coordination of their foreign policies and expanding their trade and economic relations.

The Iraqi leader said the four countries are to discuss and unify their positions on different Arab and international issues.

"This is a new phenomenon... when our diplomacies will speak in one voice in international and Arab forums," he commented.

King, Mubarak discuss latest developments, peace efforts

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday held talks on a number of issues related mainly to developments on the regional and international levels and on efforts of bringing peace to the Middle East.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the several-hour meeting, King Hussein expressed optimism over efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem and said he was looking forward to his visit to the U.S. next week.

"I think we are both convinced that the world, including the U.S., is on the right track in treating problems that stand in the way of peace," the King said adding that if such regional problems go unresolved they would threaten world peace.

King Hussein, who is scheduled to meet U.S. President George Bush April 19, said Mubarak had briefed him on his

latest visit to the U.S. and the impressions he had following his talks with Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mubarak told reporters Wednesday the Bush administration, which took office this January, showed a good understanding of the Palestine question and its ramifications and that Washington did not oppose an international conference on the Middle East.

"What the U.S. President said about occupied land and the remarks he made about (exchanging) land for peace give a clear idea of the U.S. vision of a solution (to the Middle East conflict)," Mubarak told reporters at

Marka airport upon his departure. "The U.S. does not oppose (the idea of convening an international) conference but a lot of preparation and consultations are needed before they (U.S. officials) reach a conclusion with (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir on the matter," he added.

Asked whether Egypt was trying to convince the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to accept Shamir's plan for elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mubarak said the PLO did not object to the elections as such but to the conditions under which such elections would be held.

"I have not seen any statement by Palestinian officials in the PLO saying they have rejected elections in the occupied territories," Mubarak said.

He said conditions set by the PLO for holding elections were Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and international supervision of the election process.

"This gives us the impression that the PLO does not oppose the elections; but for those elections

to be held, if the PLO agrees to them, certain preparations have to take place," such a figuring out which laws are to serve as a basis for the elections and whether or not Arabs in Arab Jerusalem will be able to participate in the polls, Mubarak said. "There are many points which need to be addressed and it is not easy to say there is agreement on elections. It depends primarily on the PLO."

The Egyptian president said Egypt was working in support of the PLO in its quest to find a solution. "His Majesty King Hussein and myself are working to reach an agreement and we are exerting our best efforts in this field to support the PLO."

Asked if Jordan supported Egypt's position on that matter, King Hussein said: "We have a unified position on all issues."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two leaders discussed the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes, Middle East peace efforts and means to boost Arab cooperation within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Upon his arrival for the brief

visit to Jordan Wednesday, Mubarak was received by King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, King Hussein's political and special advisors, a number of Cabinet ministers and senior military and civil officials.

Mubarak was accompanied by a high-level delegation, comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Sulaiman Mutwally, Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif, Interior Minister Zaki Badr, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali, Education Minister Ahmad Srouf, Director of the President's Office Usama Al Baz, Cairo Governor Yousef Abu Taleb, and the president's Secretary for Information Mustafa Al Faqi.

King Hussein hosted an iftar in honour of Mubarak and the delegation. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Rifai, Sharif Zaid, King Hussein's political and special advisors and a number of Cabinet ministers.

At least 20 wounded in W. Bank, Gaza clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — At least 20 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday.

In widespread violence in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said soldiers shot and wounded 15 Palestinians with a variety of ammunition in clashes during a general strike called to protest at Monday's killing of a Palestinian by a Jewish gunman in Jerusalem.

Two other wounded Palestinians told reporters a Jewish settler shot them in the legs with an Uzi submachine-gun after his car was stoned in Gaza City near the Sha'ti refugee camp.

Fighting was reported in the Jabalya, Sha'ti, Bureij, Nuseirat and Khan Younis refugee camps and in Gaza City, where protesters burned tyres and stoned any vehicle on the streets.

In the West Bank, troops shot and wounded three Palestinians — two seriously — during a raid on the village of Arrabeh, near Jenin.

The body of a 39-year-old Palestinian was found hanging in a disused building in Al Bireh, north of Jerusalem. Police said he had almost certainly committed suicide but witnesses said the body bore what appeared to be stab wounds.

In continuing protests in Jerusalem, police said about 20 Palestinians stoned an Israeli bank branch in the eastern sector. Police chased them and arrested 10 suspects, spokesman Uzi Sanduri said.

Most shops in Arab Jerusalem observed the second day of a three-day strike called by nationalists to protest over the Jaffa Gate killing.

Police dismantled a bomb discovered near a water pumping station in the northern Galilee region and arrested eight Arab suspects.

Israeli sources said five members of the Fateh movement in the town of Taibe were arrested before the group could carry out planned attacks.

Two Palestinians charged with being leaders of the 16-month-old uprising in the occupied territories appeared in court Wednesday and were remanded in custody until the end of their trial.

Samaan Khoury and Adnan Abdul Rahman Shalalda told reporters at Lod military court they denied all the charges.

An Israeli court Wednesday indicted one of the leaders of the Jewish settlement movement in the West Bank for killing an Arab shopkeeper.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, among the first Jews to settle in the

Hebron in 1968, was charged with manslaughter, sabotage and intentionally damaging property, a spokeswoman said.

The rightist rabbi, a founder of the Gush Emunim (bloc of the faithful) movement, said Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin should be put on trial for failing to quell the Palestinian uprising.

Prosecutor Yoram Naom said in the charge sheet that Levinger fired in the air, then at random toward shops in the Hebron market last Sept. 30 when his car was stoned.

Kayed Salah, 42, a shoe vendor, was killed and another Palestinian wounded. After the shooting, Levinger overturned stalls in the market, Naom said.

If convicted Levinger faces a maximum 20-year jail term. No date was set for his trial.

He was the third and most prominent settler to be charged with killing an Arab since the uprising began, although Palestinians say more than a dozen Arabs have been shot dead by settlers in that period.

It was still unclear whether the incident was the work of an individual extremist or of the shadowy Jewish underground group, the Sicari, who claimed responsibility in telephone calls to radio stations.



Queen hosts iftar

HER MAJESTY Queen Noor Wednesday hosted an iftar for Their Royal Highnesses Princess Taghrid, Princess Sarvath, Princess Basma and wives of prime minister, Zaid Rifai, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, former prime ministers, chief of the Royal Court and His Majesty King Hussein's political and special advisors. Also attending the iftar were wives of senior statesmen and senior officers of the Armed Forces and the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments as well as wives of Arab and Muslim ambassadors to Jordan (Petra photo)

Mitterrand says France neutral in crisis

Fierce artillery duel in Beirut; talks in Kuwait

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Panic struck Beirut streets Wednesday, the eve of the civil war's 14th anniversary, as an unexpectedly harsh shelling duel erupted between Syrian and rightist gunmen.

Police said four people were killed and 17 wounded in the barrage that broke out at 9:20 a.m. (0720 GMT) and targeted residential districts in war-divided Beirut.

That raised to 184 people killed and 636 wounded the overall toll since the current round of civil war fighting broke out March 8 between Michel Aoun's mainly Christian troops and an alliance of Syrian and Lebanese militia forces.

The whooshing sound of outgoing rockets and the thuds of shell explosions rocked Beirut's western and eastern sectors as local radio stations interrupted their programmes to urge civilians to remain indoors.

Panicking motorists blared horns and sped away in all directions after a shell slammed into the seaside boulevard near fish restaurants in west Beirut's Raouche district.

French Ambassador Paul Blanc told reporters a shell scored a direct hit on the French embassy compound in the suburb of Hazmrieh, east of Beirut.

"It inflicted damage, but no casualties," Blanc said. France has backed the rightist call for a Syrian withdrawal from

Lebanon and dispatched two ships carrying humanitarian aid. Muslims say the French are biased in favour of the mostly Christian rightists.

The shelling duel, the fiercest since the Arab League called a ceasefire in Lebanon a week ago, broke out a few minutes after a group of right-wing Christian politicians left Beirut for Kuwait.

The five-man team met later in the day with Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who heads a six-man Arab League panel on Lebanon.

Kuwait meeting

"If the Lebanese are left alone and distant from any annoyance by any of our Arab brethren, we will be able to coexist," George Saadeh, head of the Falange party who leads the delegation, said in an arrival statement in Kuwait.

The five-member delegation includes Michel Saeen and Dany Chamoun of the National Liberal Party, Shaker Abu Slayman of the Maronite order and George Edwan of the Taznim party.

Referring to the Muslim demands for political reforms as a means of ending Lebanon's factional strife, Saadeh said: "The front is not opposed to political reforms, but we cannot turn to political reforms at a time when a shower of shells is falling on us and our sons."

"If the situation is stabilised, everyone will find us moving with

Hoss accepts French aid

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's civilian prime minister Wednesday welcomed assurances of impartiality from French President Francois Mitterrand and agreed a solution to a crisis over French emergency aid.

Mitterrand, seeking to quell fears that Paris was siding with Lebanon's rightists, said in Paris that relief supplies en route to Lebanon in two French ships were intended for all victims of the fighting.

"I have been informed of the statement by the French president and I can only hail the objective and fair position," Salim Al Hoss said in a statement.

reforms beyond any imagination."

In Paris, President Francois Mitterrand said Wednesday that France was not choosing sides in Lebanon and stressed that the shipment of humanitarian aid was destined for everyone.

"France is and wants to be the friend of Lebanese of all confessions, all communities," Mitterrand told his cabinet. For France, he said, "it is not a question of choosing between victims of the clashes taking place in Lebanon."

Gorbachev appeals for calm in Georgia, warns nationalists

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in his first public statement on the nationalist unrest in Georgia, appealed for calm Wednesday but stressed he would not tolerate demands for independence.

In an address to the Georgian people, which was carried by the TASS news agency, Gorbachev said the clashes, in which 19 people died, had damaged "perestroika" (restructuring) and democratisation.

"The interests of the working people have nothing in common with attempts to sever the existing ties of friendship and cooperation among our peoples, dismantle the socialist system in the republic and push it into the slough of ethnic enmity," Gorbachev said.

"We stand for the consistent expansion of the rights of the republics, of all national formations, for filling them with real content," Gorbachev said, in a reference to growing demands in Georgia for greater autonomy from Moscow.

"Restructuring of inter-ethnic relations is not the replanning of the borders or the breakdown of the national-state structure of the country. We are resolutely against this," he added.

Gorbachev appealed to Georgian patriotism "as a man who has deep respect for the traditions

of the Georgian people, its high and noble qualities.

"It depends on you to restore peace to Georgia. This is the moral duty of everyone who holds sacred the memory of his ancestors, who values peace and harmony in his homeland and, most of all, who thinks about his people, his future."

His statement came as a Soviet spokesman announced that the death toll from Sunday's clashes in the capital Tbilisi had risen to 19 with the death of a girl in hospital. Troops used clubs to break up a crowd of some 8,000 people chanting nationalist slogans.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news briefing Wednesday that the Communist Party leader in Georgia, Dzhumbar Patiasvili, had offered to resign after the clashes. He said the party authorities were considering his request.

"Patiasvili asked to be relieved of his duties in response to criticism," Gerasimov said. "The final decision will be made in line with proceedings by the appropriate party organs."

Sixteen people, most of them women, were killed during the clashes. The others died in hospital of injuries.

The clashes followed a week of demonstrations in Tbilisi

attended by up to 100,000 people, many of whom held banners calling for "Russian invaders" to go home and waved black, white and claret Georgian national flags.

Gerasimov said Patiasvili offered to resign at a meeting at the Georgian Academy of Sciences, attended by intellectuals and representatives of nationalist groups, as well as Politburo members Eduard Shevardnadze and Georgy Razumovsky.

Shevardnadze, a native Georgian who was himself party chief in the republic until he became Soviet foreign minister in 1985, cancelled a visit to East Germany to help resolve the unrest in Tbilisi.

Shevardnadze also postponed a trip to West Germany because of the unrest, the Bonn Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The scheduled visit to Bonn Sunday and Monday would be made at a later date, a ministry spokesman said.

Authorities continued to enforce a ban on public gathering and an 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew in Tbilisi.

Gerasimov told reporters Tuesday that about 200 people had been arrested for violating the curfew, and police were confiscating 66,000 registered hunting rifles from the public. He did not give a reason.

Warsaw Pact calls for talks on tactical arms

EAST BERLIN (R) — The Warsaw Pact Wednesday proposed starting talks soon with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on reducing and eliminating short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

A statement at the end of a foreign ministers' meeting said the pact was ready to open preliminary consultations with NATO on a mandate and structure for formal talks that would run parallel to the Vienna conventional arms negotiations.

"The states party to the Warsaw Treaty propose to the member states of the North Atlantic alliance (NATO) to start in the near future separate talks on tactical nuclear arms in Europe, including the nuclear component of dual-capable systems," the statement said.

Dual-capable systems are conventional weapons that can be armed with nuclear explosives. "It could also be agreed from the outset to implement the reduction of tactical nuclear arms and their elimination in stages," the statement said.

It said the nuclear powers in NATO and the pact — Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union — should take part in the initial consultations with other interested members of either alliance, including those with such missiles on their territory and those with nuclear-capable weapons.

The actual negotiations could cover ways of drawing up verification procedures and also the

setting up of an international control commission to police any deal, it said.

Although Moscow has floated the idea of talks on short-range nuclear forces, the pact announcement was the first formal proposal to the Western alliance.

Polish Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski said Tuesday night the pact was interested in talks but the declaration gave the first full details of what was on offer.

Announced at a news conference by East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, it said lasting security in Europe would be possible only through cuts in tactical nuclear weapons, which reach up to 500 kilometres.

"We expect a constructive answer (from NATO) to our proposals," Fischer told reporters. "One really should not waste any more time."

There was a high concentration of the systems in Central Europe and also on the southern dividing line between the two military blocs, a four-part document said.

The paper, one of three published at the end of the two-day meeting, said the seven-member pact believed the mutual renunciation of moves to modernise tactical systems would create the right atmosphere for negotiations.

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Rebels plan push on Kabul

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Afghan rebels stationed near Kabul are geared for an offensive once the snow in the mountains of northern Afghanistan melts, Tehran Radio quoted a spokesman as saying Wednesday.

It said Mohammad Karim Khalili also told a news conference that a coalition of eight Iranian-based rebel groups he represents opposed a plan for U.N. posts on Afghanistan's borders.

Khalili said areas in northern and western Afghanistan controlled by the coalition's fighters were gripped by severe cold but the climate for operations improved as the snow melted.

"The coalition's forces in Maydan, Ghazni province and north of Kabul are being equipped for an offensive and we will soon open a new front near Kabul," the radio quoted Khalili as saying.

The Iranian news agency

IRNA said Afghan Mujahedeen captured 800 paramilitary troops when they overran a government military post at Ghurian, in Herat province bordering Iran.

Reporting from Mashhad on the Iranian side of the border, the agency said the rebels also captured large amounts of anti-aircraft guns, howitzers and other weapons.

The Iran-based Mujahedeen say they control a quarter of Afghanistan and have the backing of a quarter of the people.

Khalili said the coalition opposed any plan to turn the Afghan problem into a regional or international one and the Afghan people would quickly topple the Soviet-backed govern-

ment of President Najibullah once outside interference stopped.

On Tuesday, Pakistan said it had agreed to a permanent presence of U.N. forces in several areas on its border with Afghanistan.

Kabul had demanded U.N. forces to curb alleged movement of arms and other help from Pakistan to the Mujahedeen.

Khalili criticised an interim government set up in February by the stronger, Sunni dominated Mujahedeen alliance based in Pakistan, saying it served only to postpone a rebel victory.

Bad planning by the interim government — formed without the Iran-based rebels who demanded more seats than offered — led to the failure of a five-week assault on Jalalabad, he said.

The Kabul government said Tuesday it had turned back guerrilla attempts to advance on Jalalabad, but Western diplomats in

Pakistan said the government soldiers were still encircled.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said that government troops Tuesday counterattacked 14,000 guerrillas around Jalalabad, after the insurgents bombarded the eastern outpost with 18,000 shells and rockets Sunday and Monday.

Troopers killed 318 guerrillas by sundown Tuesday for the loss of only three government soldiers and five civilians, said Amani.

Malaysian recognition

Malaysia Wednesday became the fourth country to recognise the interim Afghan government set up by Pakistan-based rebels.

Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said in a statement the cabinet made the decision the day after Afghan guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar left Kuala Lumpur following talks with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad.

Donors pledge Sudan stockpile aid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Donors have pledged \$133 million required to stockpile food in Sudan before the rainy season isolates villages, but a U.N. official said Tuesday that not all Sudanese who need help can be reached.

James P. Grant, the head of Operation Sudan Lifeline, said the goal of aiding one million people and preventing over 100,000 deaths by starvation "may be unrealistic, but it's what is needed."

"We have no alternative but to try," said Grant, who is also the director of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Operation Sudan Lifeline hopes to move 100,000 metric

tonnes of food to isolated villages in Sudan before the rains begin in May, washing out roads and air strips.

In August 1985, at the height of the Ethiopian famine, only 76,500 tonnes of food was delivered by international agencies under far more favourable conditions.

Grant told reporters that about 20,000 metric tonnes of food have been delivered so far, divided about equally between areas controlled by the government in Khartoum and the rebel areas in the south.

The emergency programme had received \$77 million in pledges by the time Grant led a

U.N. planning conference a month ago in Khartoum, and received pledges for the rest of the \$133 million needed at a donor pledging meeting Tuesday.

Pledges include \$11 million from the United States, \$10 million from the European Community, and the donation of the services of four Transall aircraft capable of carrying 11 metric tonnes in a flight, from France and West Germany, said Grant.

Grant denied reports that the southern Sudanese city of Juba has been cut off from airflights by rebel threats from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), or that Ethiopia has closed its border to convoys of food.

EC team in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — A three-member European Community (EC) delegation held talks Wednesday with Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Youssef Shakkour on the civil war flare-up in Lebanon.

The delegation comprised Fernando Perpinan, secretary-general of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, Bertrand Dufour, political affairs director at the French Foreign Ministry, and Athanasios Petropoulos, who holds a similar position at the Greek Foreign Ministry.

The EC "troika" officials are preparing a report on Lebanon for foreign ministers of the 12-nation trade bloc to examine.

The "troika" is formed of the present, upcoming and previous holders of the rotating community presidency — Spain, France and Greece.

Yuri Deryabin, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Department for Security and Cooperation, said the talks were "a new step in our developing relations with the community."

He said the talks by the group also focused on east-west dialogue, the recently concluded Vienna agreements on security and human rights.

The talks, conducted mainly with deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, also dealt with regional conflicts, including the Middle East, Afghanistan, southern Africa and Central America.

Afghan rebel fighters on their way to join the battle for Jalalabad

Bush discusses peace efforts with Fahd

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia spoke by telephone Tuesday about peace efforts in the Middle East, the White House said.

A brief statement said Bush called the Saudi leader "to discuss the Middle East peace process" and the recent visits to Washington of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Washington.

Officials declined to elaborate on the conversation.

Meeting with Dumas

Bush met Tuesday with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas for brief talks that included French peace efforts in Lebanon

and the forthcoming visit of President Francois Mitterrand.

"We had a warm and interesting conversation," Dumas told reporters after the meeting.

Dumas said they talked about peace efforts in the Middle East and Lebanon, but declined to provide details.

The White House issued a brief statement that acknowledged the two leaders discussed "the Middle East peace process," as well as such issues as East-West relations and "Central America," but avoided specifics.

Dumas also said he and the president discussed "what would be the items" on the agenda for the May 20-21 talks between Mitterrand and Bush at the Bush holiday home in Maine.

Fundamentalists rounded up in Assiut

ASSIUT (AP) — Police detained 50 militant Muslim fundamentalists Wednesday in a large-scale security operation to preempt demonstrations against the arrest of a prominent anti-government cleric, security officials said.

Assiut's security chief, Mayor-General Mahmoud Sirry Al Fakharany, disclosed the detentions and said police were searching for another 20 extremists in the provincial capital, 380 kilometres south of Cairo.

Other security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said police have orders from Cairo to detain Muslim activists in other southern provinces to prevent possible street protests on Friday, after prayers. Provinces targeted for the sweeps

include Fayoum, Al Minya, Sohag and Qena.

The security dragnet was the largest since last December, when about 500 Muslim extremists were rounded up in Cairo, Assiut and other cities.

The preemptive detentions grew out of a clash last Friday between police and Muslim extremists in Fayoum, 100 kilometres southwest of Cairo, in which "fundamentalist" leader Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and 58 others were arrested. Fayoum is capital of province of the same name.

Four people were wounded in the melee, involving firearms and stones, which erupted when 300 to 400 Muslim militants rioted

after noon prayers. The militants were led from a mosque by Abdul Rahman, a blind preacher twice acquitted of charges relating to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

He was arrested under an emergency law in force since Sadat was killed. Abdul Rahman currently is detained until investigators determine whether ground exists for criminal charges.

Security officials said authorities ordered the new dragnet on information that extremists in southern Egypt planned to take to the streets after mosque prayers Friday to protest Abdul Rahman's arrest and demand his release.

U.S. says Arab opposition has not killed Shamir plan

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States Tuesday discounted Arab opposition to an Israeli proposal for elections in the occupied territories, insisting the plan was still alive.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler also said Secretary of State James Baker was considering an Arab League request to meet in May with a delegation including a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The meeting, if it took place, would be the highest level contact between the United States and the PLO since a dialogue was resumed last December after a 13-year hiatus.

Following PLO statements rejecting the election proposal, the

Arab League Monday declared the idea unacceptable to Arab states and said Israel was trying to deflect pressure to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite this reaction, Tutwiler said the administration did not believe the proposal was effectively scuttled.

"We are asking all those committed to peace to give us a chance to explore and develop these ideas," she said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, under U.S. pressure to propose "new ideas" to revive the Middle East peace process, offered elections in the occupied territories on a visit to Washington last week.

Shamir "came with an idea which we believe has potential (but) there are a lot of questions to explore and we plan to do so in

the days and weeks ahead," Tutwiler told reporters.

A senior U.S. official told Reuters Monday an appeal for support for the U.S. approach would be made to His Majesty King Hussein, who is due here next week, other Arab states and to U.S. allies.

Tutwiler stressed the U.S. view that "this is a step-by-step process... you have to crawl before you walk."

She also noted, without elaboration, that "it is not unusual in a process for different parties to stake out more extreme positions especially at the beginning of the process."

United Arab effort

Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's permanent observer at the United Nations, said the league would send a delegation of

foreign ministers and its secretary general to the United States in mid-May to discuss the Middle East. The group would include a PLO representative, he said.

Tutwiler confirmed an invitation for a meeting between Baker and the league delegation had been received and said: "Our answer is, this is being looked at."

Earlier, a U.S. official said the administration expects Israel to reduce tensions in the occupied lands despite Shamir's public insistence his government plans no change.

"It's my sense that steps can be taken but they may not want to see them as being 'necessary reciprocal,'" the official told Reuters in an interview.

While Shamir's government "will go to great lengths not to be seen negotiating with the PLO..."

that doesn't mean... they will never change the way they deal with the intifada," he said, referring to the 16-month-old Palestinian uprising.

'Evidence'

The official cited as evidence the fact that Israel last week released 450 Palestinians imprisoned during the uprising.

"Let's suppose that something happened on the Palestinian side where they changed their practice of doing something, blocking intersections or something like that," he said.

"Wouldn't that then open the way for Israel on its own to do something?" he added. He asked not to be identified.

In Chicago Monday, Shamir said his government had no plans to change the way it has handled the uprising, which has been criti-

cised by the U.S. government and has eroded American support for the Zionist state.

"It doesn't depend on the Israeli government. The existing tension is a result of acts of violence carried out by people of the intifada," Shamir said.

"The moment this violence will stop or be reduced, then the tension will disappear," he added.

U.S. officials have insisted they made no specific demands of Shamir but stressed the need for releasing political prisoners, ending "administrative detentions" and other steps to reduce tensions in the occupied lands.

U.S. officials said they would make similar demands of the PLO, in an effort to build confidence that the two adversaries are interested in peace.

Mesopotamian city found in Iraq

NEW YORK (AP) — Archaeologists claim to have discovered the ruins of an ancient Mesopotamian city that flourished 4,000 years ago and rivaled Babylon.

The site of Mashkan-Shapir, 150 kilometres south of Baghdad, has not been occupied since the city was sacked and burned about 1720 B.C.

The city was identified during the first six weeks of preliminary surveys earlier this year after Elizabeth C. Stone, one of the archaeologists, discovered a cuneiform inscription on a clay fragment with the name Mashkan.

"We have a whole city plan laid out there for us," said Stone, who, with her husband, Paul Zimansky, identified the site in January.

"We know where the canals were, the cemetery, the palace and religious quarters, the manufacturing area and the city wall. A complete, undisturbed city — that's what's really exciting about it as an archaeological site," Stone said in an interview published in the New York Times.

Stone, an associate professor of archaeology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and Zimansky, an assistant professor of archaeology at Boston University, said the city may rank among the region's major archaeological finds of the past four decades.

Other scholars cheered the news of the discovery.

"It's always a happy day in archaeology when someone nails down the identity of an ancient city," William Hallow, professor of Assyriology at Yale University, told the newspaper.

Some said the find could be as significant as the 1985 discovery of Tell Leilan, a northern Mesopotamian centre that had been the seat of a powerful king in the 18th century B.C. Other archaeologists doubted that Mashkan-Shapir would yield as much as Ebla, an ancient city in Syria where voluminous archives were discovered in the 1970s and revealed a previously unknown language.

Stone and Zimansky began exploring the site two years ago, collecting artifacts on the surface and examining satellite images of the routes of ancient canals that served the city.

But they were barred from using aircraft to photograph the site by Iraqi military restrictions. So Zimansky attached a camera to a kite to obtain pictures revealing features that were not immediately visible from the ground.

The city survived for 300 years as a major trading and manufacturing centre with a population of 15,000. Evidence indicated that it had been built in honour of Nergal, the ancient Babylonian god of death, pestilence and other disasters.

Stone and Zimansky plan more detailed mapping and excavation at the site next year.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Rains cause cracks in N. Yemeni dam

SANAA (R) — Three days of heavy rain have caused cracks in a North Yemeni dam which could burst if more rain falls, according to the official SABA news agency. Eastern Iran has also been hit by a week of flooding and the Iranian news agency IRNA Tuesday put the damage estimate at more than \$115 million. The floods swept away 250 villages, it said. SABA did not say if towns or crops would be in danger if the newly-built Al Dhaig dam in Al Baida region, 250 kilometres southeast of Sanaa, gave way. Further rain was not expected immediately. IRNA said supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered Chief Justice Abdol Karim Mousavi Ardebili to go to the Zabol area with a blank cheque to supervise relief efforts. The agency said 30,000 hectares of farm land had been inundated. In South Yemen, officials said more rain was expected after three weeks of floods which have damaged thousands of buildings, ruined farm land and killed at least 18 people.

Greek court postpones extradition decision

ATHENS (AP) — Greece's supreme court Tuesday postponed its decision on the extradition of a Palestinian wanted by the United States for the 1982 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner because one of its members fell ill. The president of the five-member supreme court panel said it would reconvene to hear the case against Mohammad Rashid April 18, after a replacement had been found for the judge, who fell ill shortly after the hearing began. "One member of the court has told us that he has suddenly become ill and I recommend a postponement," said Vassilis Lambridis, president of the criminal division of the Areos Pagos, Greece's supreme court. Lambridis, flanked by the entire panel, did not say which of its members had fallen ill. Rashid, 39, is wanted by the United States for the 1982 bombing of a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Hawaii. A Japanese teenager was killed and 15 other people were injured in the mid-air blast.

Shamir advisor indicted for bribery

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Tel Aviv district court Tuesday indicted an advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for allegedly accepting bribes in West Bank land deals. The money was subsequently passed to Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc, Israel Radio said. The indictment charged former Deputy Agriculture Minister Michael Dekel with soliciting \$320,000 (\$323,000) in bribes from land developers in return for help in obtaining government permits for purchasing land in the occupied West Bank. The indictment said Dekel began demanding the money in April 1984, after general elections were announced and that his associations linked to the political bloc. Elections were held in July 1984, and ended in a stalemate between the Likud and the Labour Party. The two parties formed a joint unity government. Prosecutor Rachel Sharbat Dekel received money from at least four land dealers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:30 Koran
14:35 Children programmes
16:15 Cooking programme
16:30 Arabic series
17:20 Health programme
18:00 Religious period
18:20 Ramadan contest
18:35 Arabic series
19:00 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Religious series
22:25 Riddle
23:00 News in Arabic
23:15 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary about plants
19:00 News in French
19:15 Strategic
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Striker"

PRAYER TIMES

03:45 Fajr
05:05 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:36 Dhuhr
15:12 Asr
18:07 Maghreb
19:27 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzani Church Tel. 623246
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
625433.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
773261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel.
685726.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811395.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 622605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

It will be fair with the appearance of
some low clouds and winds will be
northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it
will be hazy with northerly moderate
winds and calm seas.

	Min./max. temp.
Aman	13 / 24
Aqaba	19 / 32
Deserts	14 / 28
Jordan Valley	16 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Aman
23, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings:
Aman 34 per cent, Aqaba 41 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Majed Abu Sneineh 861635
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sharr 791405
Dr. Mahmoud Allan 894866
Dr. Mahmoud Abu Mahfouz 793444
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 773336
Al Azzam pharmacy 637055
Najroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644045
Shneissani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mahmoud Khalil (—)
Al Sharr pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Farah Aqrabawi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 62209093
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 640405
Public Security Department 65090991
Fire Brigade 650000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

COMPLAINTS

Amman Municipality 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 626381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Akleh Maternity, J. Ann 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Mahbas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeissani 6641714
Shmeissani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 6612107
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7711013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 6224850
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
The Sina Hospital (09)86732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)75555

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) Information, depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	From	Time	From
09:10	Aqaba (RJ)	12:15	Baghdad (IA)
09:10	Damascus (RJ)	13:20	Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
09:15	Jeddah (RJ)	13:20	Kuwait (KU)
09:20	Cairo (MS)	14:30	Dhahran (TK)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	15:00	Bucharest (RO)
09:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	16:25	Riyadh (SV)
10:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)	18:00	Amsterdam, Athens (LH)
10:00	Calcutta (RJ)	18:05	Cairo (MS)
16:15	Larnaca (RJ)	18:25	Frankfurt (KL)
17:20	Athens (RJ)	19:10	Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
17:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	09:05	London, Cairo (BA)
17:45	London, Geneva (RJ)		
18:10	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)		
18:30	Bangkok (RJ)		
18:45	Rome (RJ)		
20:00	Tripoli (RJ)		

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 Dubai (TU)
09:10 Saana (LH)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LOCAL COUNCILS: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has approved the formation of a committee to discuss issues pertaining to improving financial situations of local councils. The committee groups Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment secretary general, the director general of the Cities and Villages Development Bank, the director general of the General Budget Department and the finance managers in both the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and Greater Amman Municipality. (Petra)

ABU TALEB MEETS IRAQI TEAM: Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday received a visiting Iraqi military delegation led by Lieutenant-General Iyad Ibrahim Al Rawi and reviewed scopes of bilateral cooperation. Also Wednesday Abu Taleb's assistants received the commander of the Finnish armed forces and an accompanying delegation. The delegation visited the Martyr's Monument in Amman. (Petra)

POLICE OFFICERS GRADUATE: A new batch of police officers from the Public Security Department's Special Brigade graduated Wednesday at a ceremony attended by the brigade commander Colonel Salman Maaitah. The graduates heard speeches and then presented military exercises and performed sports activities. Later the graduates received their diplomas and awards from Maaitah. (Petra)

VISITING HOURS FOR PATIENTS: The National Medical Institution (NMI) announced Wednesday that visits to patients at all government hospitals under its charge shall take place between three and five in the afternoon except Tuesdays when no visits are allowed. The announcement said that on public holidays and Fridays visits will be allowed between 10 in the morning and 12 noon. (Petra)

U.K. WOMEN TRAVEL EXECUTIVES: A group of 20 senior women executives representing the Association of Women Travel Executives (AWTE) in London Thursday end a week-long visit to Jordan. The group has been touring the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, Amman, and the Dead Sea. The group, which contains representatives of the travel industry in the United Kingdom, has been invited by the Jordan Interline Club in its drive to encourage tourism in Jordan. The visit is the second of its kind to be organised by the club following one carried out in 1988. (J.T.)

Egypt to use computers on Aqaba-Nweibeh route

CAIRO (J.T.) — Egypt Wednesday announced its intention to boost the capacity of the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route and said it was contemplating using computers to speed up routine work and formalities at the points of entry.

An announcement by the Egyptian Ministry of Transport here said that the measures are being considered in view of the growing demand on travel via the route which, it said, transported 2.5 million people and 150,000 vehicles of all sorts in the past four years of operations.

Passengers and vehicles are being transported from and to Nweibeh from the port city of

Aqaba aboard ferry boats operated jointly by Jordan and Egypt, the two countries, which originally initiated the route computers. The expansion plan entails enlarging the port platform at Nweibeh which should allow for more ferry boats to enter and the construction of larger arrival and departure lounges for the benefit of the travellers, according to the statement.

It said that once computer systems are installed, time for procedures will be cut down and more travellers can be absorbed.

The land-sea route is now operated by Iraq, Jordan and Egypt through the newly established Maritime Bridge Company.

Traffic police to launch series of campaigns

AMMAN (Petra) — Police departments and traffic and patrol police will launch a series of campaigns between April 15 and 28 designed to stem violations of traffic regulations in Jordan, according to a statement issued Wednesday by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The announcement said that between April 15 and 19 there will be a wide scale campaign to stem violations of speeding and of rules concerning priorities on the road, another campaign between April 20 and April 23 will focus on speeding motorists and reckless overtaking, a third campaign between April 24 and 26 will crack down on motorists who take wrong turns or drive opposite traffic directions, and a fourth campaign will be launched on April 27 and 28 against those who do not abide by traffic posters.

The statement noted that the series of campaigns will be held in observation of the International Traffic Day and the Arab Traffic Week, and following a wide-scale campaign launched in the media to spread awareness among members of the public about traffic rules and safety on the roads.

RSS to carry out studies on treated water

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will carry out studies on the treated water coming out from the wastewater treatment plant at Khirbet Al Samra near Zarqa in a bid to recycle the water for other different purposes.

An agreement reached between the RSS and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Wednesday said that the former will conduct quality control studies on the treated water from the moment it leaves the plant at Khirbet Al Samra until it reaches the reservoir behind the King Talal Dam.

The outcome of the studies will enable decision-makers and planners to decide on the best means of using the treated water in different areas. The studies will also provide information on the type of water that is being stored behind the dam, which is normally used for irrigation in the Jordan Valley during the dry season. According to the agreement, the cost of the study will be JD 38,321, and it will take one year to complete.

Soil saturation caused recent landslide — NRA

AMMAN (J.T.) — A major landslide, which occurred in an area in northern Jordan two days ago, was due to the saturation of the soil with great amounts of water, rendering the land loose and soft which triggered the landslide according to a report released by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Wednesday.

The landslide occurred at Jabal Dahous near the town of Ajloun causing extensive damage to agricultural lands and trees and destroying at least three homes, according to earlier reports. The NRA report said that a team of geologists and engineers visited the area, inspected the soil at the site of the landslide, and found that the upper layers were covered with no less than 10 metres of mud with no supporting rocks, and that the land was covered by a network of canals to irrigate the fields, the fruit trees and vegetables.

Nearly 200 dunums of land grown with vegetables and crops, extending along 400 metres were hit by the landslide, considered the biggest in Jordan over the past few years, the report said. The report called on the authorities to take speedy measures to drain away the water which is accumulating now at the low-lying area near the landslide site to avoid another slide.

The report denied that the

landslide was caused by an earth tremor.

The NRA issued a statement revealing that its Engineering and Geological Department has prepared a detailed study to provide planners, construction engineers, surveyors and geologists with data concerning soil and rock strata in Jordan.

The statement said that the study entailed preparation of geological maps, conducting geochemical surveys and studies concerning mineral resources aimed at collecting data about the nature of soil to benefit studies on earthquakes, building operations and other economic and industrial operations in the country.

The NRA announced that it is currently executing a long-term geological survey programme to cover all parts of the Kingdom to provide information on the land and its layers for planners of road and railway projects, water and sewerage networks and land use.

It said that NRA teams are conducting geological surveys in urban as well as rural regions and carrying out laboratory and field tests on samples of rocks and soil in the course of their work.

The NRA said that such studies and surveys would not doubt help deal with landslides, rifts and eventually reduce danger and material losses.

Government to issue new passports in 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Civil Registration and Passports will issue a new form of passports to Jordanian citizens as of the beginning of 1990 but there will be no increase in the fees according to the department Director Issa Al Omari.

The new passports will be smaller in form but will have 20 pages, Omari said in an interview published by Sawt Al Shaab daily earlier this month.

Unlike the current practice, the wife will have her own passport with her name and the name of her father and family before marriage written clearly under her photograph and the name of her husband mentioned on the other pages, Omari noted.

He said that the department has 43 branches operating outside the Kingdom in foreign countries and they can renew passports for Jordanians living abroad provided the applicants supplied the necessary documents.

Palestinians who have their permanent residence in the occupied territories and carry a green coloured card from the bridges authorities at the points of entry near the Jordan River can have their passports renewed for two years only while those with yellow coloured cards can obtain ordinary passports serving for five years, Omari explained.

He said the normal fee for a passport is JD 20 whether the passport was issued for Palestinians or Jordanians or to those wishing to have a temporary pas-

port for visiting the occupied territories.

Omari said that his department last year issued 155,079 passports but was faced with an influx of applications from people wishing to renew their documents during the past winter following a rumour that the fees will go up.

Indeed the department faces pressure during the summer due to the presence of Jordanian expatriates who come here for their holiday, during which they wish to renew their passports, and students wishing to travel abroad to continue their higher studies, Omari noted.

But he said the department has decided to increase the number of officials handling the passport procedures to help complete the work as soon as possible.

Omari noted that Jordanians can, according to law, obtain a dual nationality and non-Jordanian Arabs living in the Kingdom for 15 consecutive years are allowed to obtain Jordanian nationality.

He said that the foreign wife of a Jordanian can obtain a Jordanian passport after the lapse of five years following her marriage.

Omari also said that the government can deprive a Jordanian of his nationality if the person was found to be serving a hostile nation and refused to give up his jobs upon request from the Jordanian government, or if they commit a crime considered dangerous to the national security.

Khayyat: Ministry has taken all measures to facilitate pilgrimage

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat announced that the ministry has taken all necessary measures to facilitate the process for Muslims wishing to take part in the pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, starting July 25.

Speaking at a press conference at the ministry Wednesday, Khayyat said ministry officials had met with the ministers of health, interior, tourism, transport in addition to officials from the Amman Municipality and the Customs Department, in order to facilitate the transportation and accommodation of pilgrims this year.

Khayyat said the ministry had exerted every effort not to increase the costs of travel and accommodation for pilgrimage this year. "But due to the Jordan dinar's new exchange rate against the Saudi riyal, the amount of money (in Saudi riyals) needed for pilgrimage has increased," he noted however that the amounts to be paid by pilgrims in Saudi riyals had not changed because the ministry was able to acquire reduced costs and fees for pilgrims.

The minister said ministry officials had met with representatives of the Central Bank of Jordan in order to facilitate the procedure for obtaining Saudi riyals by pilgrims.

Khayyat cited prices for pilgrimage tours as follows: JD 356 for Jordanian residents travelling by air-conditioned buses, JD 346 for Jordanian residents travelling by non-air-conditioned buses, JD 294.5 for Jordanian residents travelling by air (air fare excluded), JD 354 for Jordanians residing in Arab countries wishing to travel by air-conditioned buses, JD 344 for Jordanian residents of Arab countries travelling by non-air-conditioned buses, and JD 284.5 for Jordanian residents of Arab countries wishing to travel by air (air fare excluded). Non-Jordanian Muslims wishing to pay JD 352 to travel in air-conditioned buses, JD 342 in non-air-conditioned buses and JD 279.5 by air.

Residents of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and holding temporary Jordanian passports who wish to travel by air-conditioned

buses will have to pay JD 359, while those travelling by non-air-conditioned buses will have to pay JD 349 and those wishing to travel by air will pay JD 297.5.

Gaza residents holding travel documents will pay JD 355 for travelling in air-conditioned buses, JD 345 for non-air-conditioned buses and JD 282.5 for air travel. Muslims in Palestine lands occupied since 1948 will pay JD 365 for travel in air-conditioned buses, JD 355 for non-air-conditioned buses and JD 303.5 for air travel.

Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will be treated as Jordanian residents, the minister noted.

Khayyat said the Saudi authorities usually allocate the maximum number of pilgrims allowed from various areas, and cited the following numbers as follows: 15,000 from the East and West Banks of Jordan, 4,300 pilgrims from pre-1948 Palestine and 1,000 pilgrims from the Gaza Strip.

Registration for pilgrims is open until May 20, Khayyat said, and urged all Muslims interested in attending the holy pilgrimage to meet that deadline. Arabic press reports Wednesday quoted ministry officials as calling on all Muslims wishing to perform the pilgrimage to register their names and to reserve seats in the buses that would transport them to the holy places and back to Jordan.

The minister said a total of 36 travel and transport companies had applied for taking part in transport and accommodation arrangements, but that only 18 of those companies had met the criteria to qualify as responsible for such arrangements.

Press reports quoted the ministry's Pilgrimage Affairs Department Director Mohammad Taher as saying that pilgrims could register their names with any of the 18 companies selected by the ministry. If they wish to travel by

air, he said, pilgrims should register with the national airliner, Royal Jordanian.

The 18 companies have been assigned various responsibilities according to their efficiency and capabilities. Each company is assigned a certain number of pilgrims to handle, and as Khayyat said, the ministry's selection of those companies took into consideration the interests of both the pilgrims and the companies themselves.

Khayyat advised Muslim pilgrims to travel by coaches rather than take their own cars and transport means and said that if pilgrims chose the latter, the ministry could not be held responsible for them. He added that the ministry could not be held responsible for providing accommodation for those who travel by air.

Khayyat said a small number of Turkish pilgrims are expected to pass through Syria and Jordan on their way to the holy city of Mecca, but he did not specify the exact figure.

Resthouses throughout Jordan, from the Ramtha in the north to Ma'an in the south, have been improved in an attempt to provide the suitable travel conditions for the pilgrims, Khayyat said. Health centres for the pilgrims have also been set up.

Khayyat said that representatives of the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf have met with officials in Saudi Arabia to ensure cooperation and coordination on issues related to the pilgrimage. He expressed satisfaction with the extent of cooperation with Saudi officials.

The secretary general at the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Helayel, who also addressed the press conference, stressed that the pilgrimage trip is not one of pleasure and that it required exertion of considerable personnel and collective effort.

He warned pilgrims against falling into the "Zionist enemy's" trap of disrupting the holy pilgrimage. Helayel pointed to last year's incident where false schedules were handed out to pilgrims, schedules with accommodation instructions contrary to those issued to pilgrims originally.

Aqaba gets JD 1,429,000

AOABA (Petra) — Aqaba Municipality has obtained a JD 1,429 million loan to carry out a number of projects in the port city and its suburbs, so as to meet the growing demand on services until the year 2000, according to the chairman of the Aqaba Municipality Committee Ahmad Kabari.

He said that JD 600,000 will be spent on the construction of a

huge complex for trucks commuting between Aqaba and other cities.

The project, which will be set up behind the ring road, is a joint venture by the municipality and the Aqaba Region Authority, Kabari noted. He said that a JD 500,000 loan will finance the industrial and crafts zone south of the city of Aqaba, and JD 100,000 will be used to finance a

resthouse at the border region for the benefit of land travellers.

In addition, he said, JD 75,000 will be used to set up a public garden and JD 54,000 will be used to finance a children's recreation area.

Kabari reported that the municipality has bought a shopping area from the Housing Corporation for JD 60,000, and is now leasing it to local merchants.



Portraits of Jordan

AMMAN — "The Land of Jordan" is a new book by Arslan Ramadan, the Jordanian collector of historical documents and transcripts. The book is a collection of photographs that features the country's natural beauty and the great number of archaeological sites that are evidence of Jordan's deep-rooted civilisation.

Apart from highlighting the archaeological and touristic sites in the Kingdom, the photographs, which were personally taken by Ramadan, devote special sections to modern Amman, showing the degree of modernisation the capital has reached; the Jordanian desert with its historic castles; wildlife in the Kingdom with a special section for wild flowers, birds in Jordan and a section for traditional jewelry, brass and copperware.

In the book's preface, Ramadan says: "While Jordan continues the cycle of its past through its present, it would be a highly difficult task to squeeze all this detail into one volume. But with this realisation, the results of producing this work for all those years have given me the incentive of producing this work as a window from which the world can look onto Jordan, its past and its present: its nature, its heritage and way of life." The photo, taken by the author, shows a bedouin girl carrying a sheep.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ An art exhibition by Dr. Kamel Qa'bar at Amman Community College.

FILMS

- ★ A feature film entitled "Rumpelstiltskin" at the American Centre — 4:00 p.m.

RAMADAN SOUQ

- ★ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.

Jordan's bottled water is of 'good quality'

In the first of a two part series on bottled water in Jordan, water experts discuss the quality of the bottled water and means of protecting its quality from deterioration.

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ONE of Jordan's most precious resources... in a bottle... has been labelled by experts as "good quality." However, the labels on the bottled water have been questioned, as have the specifications of the "pure, natural and healthy mineral water" set by the Department of Standardisation and Metrology.

One of the main arguments raised by the concerned individuals at the Department of Environment, Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the University of Jordan centred on recent changes in bottled water specifications. According to them the changes cancelled the checking and the monitoring of the water source, which they consider to be crucial in determining the quality of the water.

University of Jordan microbiologist Dr. Fuad Hashweh compared the original specification, put into effect in 1979, and the amendments made in 1987. "It (the new specification) does not mention anything about the source, which in my opinion should be the major criteria for deciding the quality of the water," Hashweh said.

He says that since the labelling on the bottled waters indicates to the consumer that they are drinking natural water, "this means they are drinking water which is not treated or polluted... Clean water from a continuous, clean source."

This does not imply that the water sources for the bottled water in Jordan are contaminated, or that "the contamination is poisonous," but "it is a question

of quality," said Hashweh.

He said that more tests should be conducted. While the specification is strict towards the microbiological quality of the water, "it does not ask for the total bacteria count to be taken."

Although there are natural bacteria communities in every water source, he said that continuous monitoring of the bacteria count would ensure that the number of communities remains low.

Including such a requirement would indicate "whether the source has a high concentration of organic material... it would say something about the source," said Hashweh. Director of the Department of Environment, Dr. Sufian Al Tal said that while there were some water experts who stress the importance of the water sources, "others believe it (the water source) is not important" since the ozone treatment used for bottled water kills all the bacteria.

Ozonisation solves the problem of bacteria, "and all the bottles are 100 per cent bacteria-free," said Tal.

However, Hashweh asserts that using ozone may cover for the quality of the water source. "Ozone kills the bacteria, meaning that the quality of source does not have to be checked," he said. Bacteria is not the only way the groundwater can be polluted. Tal points out that the presence of chemical compounds or physical properties could contaminate the water source.

"Any water source close to sewage pipes, septic tanks, fertilizers or mineral oils (is susceptible) to the penetration of these elements, thereby polluting the

water," Tal said, pointing out that one litre of mineral oil can pollute 100,000 litres of water.

To rid the water (of these elements) creates complications since it requires a complicated process to purify the water," he said.

Tal added that if the water source is found to be contaminated, the department sends official letters to the Ministry of Health, Trade and Industry, Interior and Water and Irrigation explaining the situation, "there is a health law which requires them to take action."

Again the implication here is not that these materials are present, but as Tal puts it, "we do not have an opinion of the water source (specification), but we recommend that the source be checked to be in line with the Ministry of Industry's specifications."

Head of the Department of Standardisation and Metrology at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Hasan Al Saudi, said these changes were in line with the department's policy of revision. "The specifications were amended because we have a policy of revision every two to three years," he said.

The amendment decision was taken by a technical committee covering all the private and the public institutions concerned with water. "They decided to change the specifications in accordance with the health regulations."

He said "a standard or a regulation" for the source will be set "maybe this year or next year." To ensure that the bottled water is free of microbiological material, the Ministry of Health, Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and the Department of Environment check the water regularly.

Prior to November 1988, the RSS worked with the Depart-

ment of Environment in monitoring the quality of the bottled water at the source and at the supermarkets every month.

According to Director of Industrial Chemistry Department at the RSS Murad Beno, and both the head of the water protection section at the Department of Environment, Ahmad Khatab, and head of the Land Protection Department, Dr. Saleh Share, who is also deputy director of the Department of Environment, the five year agreement, which was signed by both sides, was stopped after three years for "financial reasons."

Khatab said that the Department of Environment has sent a letter in favour of the agreement. "The agreement is under review by the prime minister, and the prime minister (has asked) the minister of finance to reimplement the project."

"Even though the prime minister requested that the programme be reactivated, the programme has not (re)started," said Beno. He voiced his objection to the government related sectors checking the water, pointing out that the Ministry of Health does only sanitary and microbiological checks. "They can not do any other kind of monitoring for chemical or other kinds of pollutants, while the RSS has the water quality management equipment to do total checks."

As for the WAJ, Beno says, "they are not interested in checking since it is not their responsibility." However, the bottled water companies have taken precautionary measures to ensure that the water source will be free from contamination. Both the heads of Kawthar and Ghader brands of bottled water said that they have taken strict precautionary environmental measures.

They said that their plants are in isolated areas with no plantations within a radius of 500 metres from the spring.

According to the head of Kawthar, Ma'an Zabian, the water source is well protected by a "special building, which has a completely closed room (over the source)."

Vice President of Ghader Ramzi Hadithch referred to another important precautionary measure: ozonisation. "Ozone (which is in accordance with the specification) which is oxygen, has no taste, but does have a smell which disappears after one hour," said Hadithch, adding that the ozone placed in the water before the cap is put on the bottle, kills any bacteria which may have been present.

However, if contamination is found, the water source may not always be the culprit. Bottled water can also be polluted during the processing and filling of the bottles in the factory and through improper storage and handling of the bottles in the market.

Khatab points out that the bottled water should be in closed boxes far from sunrays and preferably in glass bottles. He explained that the sunrays increase the bacteria count in the water and causes a reaction with plastic. "We cannot say what the reaction is since we have not conducted any studies yet, but we believe that there is a reaction," Khatab said.

Tal added that if the water exceeds its expiry date, usually one year, without being used, the quality of the water deteriorates. He attributed the deterioration to the decrease in the amount of oxygen present in the water.

"Water is made up of hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O). So if the amount of oxygen starts to decrease then we won't have 100

per cent H₂O," Tal said, adding that there should be a minimum of five milligrammes of oxygen per litre.

Hadithch also referred to the storage in supermarkets. "Water quickly absorbs the surrounding smells and sometimes the bottles are placed near detergents," thereby affecting the water.

He said that mistakes do happen in Jordan and outside, and that as long as they are not fatal, they should not be exploited. "The consumer expects things to be perfect. If there is a mistake there is an attack on the industry as a whole," he said.

"There are times when 'spores' are found in some bottled water. According to Zabian, these spores are present in the air and enter the water from the space available between the cap and the bottle, usually when the bottles are being transported and there are temperature changes.

He said that since no chemicals are used in the bottled water, these spores are not killed and consequently grow in the water. "They (the spores) are definitely not harmful, but they are not nice to see," he said.

To reduce the incidence of this problem, within the next three to six months Kawthar plans to add an extra cap, "which looks like a medical cap," over the cap presently being used. Zabian said that this means an increase of cost for the company, but there will be no price hike for Kawthar water. Zabian also says that his company conducts 10,000 tests annually to check the water in the source, storage tanks, before and after ozonisation and during storage "to ensure the quality of the water."

No official from Safa Company, the third bottled water company in Jordan, was available for comment.

Jordan Times

... independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Good news

AS the prime ministers of the four-state Arab Cooperation Council concluded their Baghdad meeting to put more flesh on the ACC skeleton, their formation has received yet another vote of confidence, this time from Sudan which has just proclaimed through its foreign minister its readiness to apply for membership to the ACC as soon as possible. By opting to join the ACC, Sudan has registered its confidence that the path of the council is in complete harmony with the aspirations and goals of other Arab countries which have yet to choose membership in one of the existing three Arab unity schemes.

With Egypt a founding member of the ACC it would be natural and logical for Sudan to choose the ACC in view of the geographic proximity of Sudan to Egypt. Yet the most important thing is to have Sudan and the rest of the Arab states which remain outside the orbit of the prevailing three Arab unions become members of one or the other of these Arab groupings. Thus, while it would be an honour for the ACC to gain additional Arab memberships, its honour would likewise be served by having the rest of the Arab states join one or the other Arab unions.

Considering the fact that the ACC is just two months young, it is amazing how much work has been done already to make it operational and dynamic. That reflects the seriousness with which the four concerned Arab countries take their newly formed council. With such an attitude and political will, one would expect the ACC to receive continuous support that would bolster its course and fortify its confidence. With Sudan already signalling its choice in favour of the ACC, the council has no way to go except full speed ahead.

And now that the prime ministers of the four Arab countries have finalised their discussions on the ACC organisational, statute, financial and administrative structures and its general secretariat, one would expect the ACC to be in full operation in the course of the next few months and ready to receive new Arab members. In this vein one hope that Sudan would feel ready to join the ACC in the shortest possible time.



... from words of the late Raban Sagar

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper on Wednesday described as ugly Zionist crime the assassination of an innocent Palestinian youth in the city of Jerusalem. The assassination is another facet of Israel's official policy of terrorism exercised against the Arab population of Palestine, the paper noted. It said that the killing of the Arab youth by Israeli troops is one form of encouragement the Israelis are giving to the Zionist settlers who roam the country killing Arabs and destroying Arab property. To conceal their crime the Israelis are now trying to shift the blame for the killing on Palestinian youths and for that purpose they are launching a wave of arrests in the Arab city of Jerusalem, the paper pointed out. Moreover, the paper added, the Israelis are exploiting the incident for their own benefit by claiming that demonstrations following Friday prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque would be banned completely so as to put an end to assassinations. What is happening in Arab Jerusalem is an expression of Zionist terrorism and this should be confronted by a very strict and drastic measure on the part of the international community.

Al Dustour daily commented on the ongoing talks in Baghdad between the prime ministers of the four Arab Cooperation Council countries. The meetings are designed to achieve the best economic progress for the four countries and their people, as part of the pan-Arab drive to attain integration among the Arab countries at large, the paper noted. It said that the desire to fulfill the dream of the Arab masses in unifying their countries into one Arab Nation is motivating the four countries leaders to pursue their task with diligence and perseverance. Indeed the Arab masses attach great hopes to these meetings and hope that the four countries will contribute towards the achievement of the long sought unity, the paper added. It said that whatever achievements and progress to be realised through the Baghdad meetings will have their beneficial effect on the long march towards the fulfillment of the Arab masses aspirations.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also tackled the Baghdad meetings in its editorial on Wednesday. The prime ministers' optimism about the excellent outcome of the meeting, said the paper, is justified since all indications point to all-out agreement on future steps to be taken to implement the principles and achieve the objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council. The meetings in Baghdad are part of the ongoing process of integration; and therefore they are being looked on by the Arab masses as one link in the long chain of activities that would ultimately lead to unity among the Arabs, the paper added. The four prime ministers meeting in Baghdad, the paper said, are charting plans for the Arab Nation's continued growth and determined march towards progress and prosperity.

Recruit scandal tests Japan political system

By Graham Earnshaw
Reuters

TOKYO — Japan's developing political crisis is turning into a major test of the cohesiveness of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the power of the opposition.

The so-called Recruit affair has ballooned into the country's biggest political scandal, threatening the present government and giving the opposition its best shot at toppling the LDP in more than 30 years.

At centre stage is Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has spent much of the past six months rejecting opposition demands that he resign or call a general election over the scandal.

The Recruit publishing and telecommunications group hand-

ed out huge amounts of money to politicians and other public figures in the mid-1980s to fuel its expansion. Three cabinet ministers have resigned and 13 people have so far been arrested as a result.

In the past week revelations in the media that Takeshita's political support group received donations worth at least 130 million yen (\$1 million) from Recruit in 1986 and 1987 has strengthened the impression that his days are numbered.

Political analysts now speculate not so much about whether he will step down, but when. Some LDP members of parliament are saying there is a need to get rid of Takeshita to prevent a bloodbath in forthcoming local and national elections.

That, added to opposition demands for his removal and plun-

meting public opinion ratings, leaves Takeshita very little room for manoeuvre.

One theory has it that he may be eased out as early as May, after his scheduled trip to south-east Asia from April 29 to May 7.

"With that diplomatic triumph behind him, the LDP could give Takeshita a standing ovation as he heads for the exit," said Tokyo University professor Takashi Inoguchi.

But Takeshita has proved himself to be tenacious and there are powerful reasons why he may not step down so quickly.

— There is no obvious successor within the LDP.

— Most of the top leadership is as tainted with the Recruit brush as Takeshita himself and there may be a shortage of eligible candidates wanting the job at this time.

— This year's budget has been stalled in parliament for over a month. A new prime minister would have to start the whole budget process from scratch.

If he is forced out, the end of Takeshita does not mean the end of the LDP.

The scandal has given the opposition its best shot at the LDP in years but political analysts say the opposition has little chance of beating the ruling party, in power for the past 34 years.

"The opposition does not have much unity, they are not ready (to form a government), they are not serious," said Inoguchi.

Public approval of the LDP has plummeted to an all-time low as a result of the scandal and the introduction this month of an unpopular sales tax.

But support for the opposition parties has hardly budged,

according to one recent poll. Instead of defecting to other parties, former LDP supporters have mostly moved into the "don't know" column.

The bottom line is that most Japanese are politically conservative.

Meanwhile, the nation waits for the prosecutors to make their next move as rumours about possible targets fly thick and fast.

The prosecutors have so far arrested businessmen and former senior bureaucrats on corruption charges. The next step, the reports have it, is the arrest of a politician.

The scandal's main effect so far has been to stall virtually all parliamentary business since early March as opposition parties press their demands for former premier Yasuhiro Nakasone to testify before parliament on his

links to Recruit. The opposition's most important hostage is the 1989-90 budget. That has to be passed by April 21 or a supplementary budget will be needed to keep the government supplied with cash.

The LDP has threatened to pass the budget in spite of the opposition's parliamentary boycott — it has a majority in both houses of parliament and could easily do so.

Under Japanese-style democracy, there is a virtual taboo on the government steam-rolling bills through parliament. It must rather seek a degree of consensus with the opposition first.

There have been a few cases since the war where the government has pushed the budget through in defiance of the opposition, but it has usually led to a change in government.

Neglect of voters may topple Kohl

By Mark Heinrich
Reuters

BONN — For years Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his loose "coalition of the middle" rode West Germany's wave of prosperity, but political analysts say that neglected tensions below the surface now jeopardise his government.

Chronic fighting within the coalition, they say, distracted serious attention from festering grievances of voters until they drove their point home in two regional elections this year.

Many traditional backers of Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) are defecting to rightist parties in anger over Bonn's inability to stop a flood of foreign refugees coming to West Germany.

Meanwhile, the opposition left — Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens — is gaining strength from a Soviet arms control campaign that challenges the conventional CDU view of the East bloc as a security threat.

"The economy has never been better, but the opinion of the people has changed since Kohl took office (in 1982). They are showing greater individualism in political taste," said Walter Tacke, director of the Emnid polling institute.

"In this climate it has become very difficult for a coalition of the middle like Kohl's to profile itself," Tacke said. "His cautious,

step-by-step approach no longer does the job."

The CDU was voted out of office in state elections in West Berlin in January, then was hammered in communal voting in Hesse state a month ago, losing control of city hall in the country's financial capital, Frankfurt.

The SPD and Greens were able to form a governing coalition in West Berlin and were expected to do so in Frankfurt too. In both elections, the far right Republicans and the neo-Nazi National Democrats (NPD) catapulted to parliamentary representation with 7.5 and 6.6 per cent of the vote, respectively.

The two outpooled Kohl's ruling partner in Bonn, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP).

Opinion surveys suggest the Republicans and NPD will score as well or better in elections in June for the European Parliament and local councils in two West German states.

An Infas institute poll released on April 4 gave the CDU only 34 per cent nationally, a loss of two per cent within one week that underscored the party's long fall from the 44.3 per cent taken in its 1987 re-election.

The FDP had five per cent in the Infas poll, while the Greens and SPD surged to 52 per cent together — enough for a majority — and the Republicans seven per cent.

Kohl insisted before going on his Easter holidays that he was

confident of re-election in 1990 and would reassess policy and personnel during his break to help him reach that goal.

Since his return on April 3, he has been reported to be preparing a cabinet shuffle, an idea pushed by the FDP to convey a fresh sense of unity and purpose to voters.

But many analysts suspect it may be too late to save the coalition, given the polarisation of the electorate.

"A 'coalition of the middle,' as Kohl has labelled his government, doesn't hold up any more if the middle is itself melting," the Munich newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung remarked.

Western diplomats say that if the CDU decline continues in the June elections, Kohl could face an internal revolt and lose his party chairmanship before the 1990 elections.

"But he got to the top by being a skilled and astute party man. His dull exterior should not obscure the fact that his enemies usually underestimate him. He's come out of bad patches before," one diplomat said.

Kohl has been criticised throughout his tenure for his lack of charisma, his meandering speaking style and his habit of giving cabinet posts to untried outsiders who pose no political threat to him.

An Infas survey released last week said 65 per cent of people in a representative poll answered

"no" when asked whether Kohl was a good chancellor, 23 said "yes" and remainder gave no opinion. Infas said Kohl's personal standing was at its worst since he took office six-and-a-half years ago.

The chancellor has never been able to quiet public wrangling between FDP and CDU party officials over important policy matters ranging from asylum-seeking refugees to NATO missile modernisation, relations with the Soviet bloc, and tax reform.

Public anger over the pressure of hundreds of thousands of East Bloc and Third World immigrants on the tight housing and job market has been brewing for several years.

But the FDP has blocked CDU attempts to toughen the largely open-door political asylum law, leaving Kohl with little alternative but piecemeal measures such as visa rules.

In security affairs, Kohl has backed a continued heavy NATO presence in West Germany but the public wonders why unilateral Soviet disarmament is not being reciprocated in the West.

Most West Germans oppose the proposed modernisation of NATO's nuclear missiles, but Kohl's coalition is divided.

"The government's inability to market its policies to the public is the major problem," said pollster Tacke in a comment echoed by many experts. "The policy profile just isn't there."

What is Solidarity?

By John Daniszewski
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — "There is no freedom without Solidarity." The slogan has been shouted at rallies and marches throughout Poland since 1981, when martial law crushed the East bloc's first independent trade union.

But now that the union has survived years of jailings, beatings, even killings to win back its right to exist, the question becomes, "what is Solidarity and what will it be?"

Many of the men and women who were active in Solidarity in 1980-81 have emigrated or gone on to other activities. Some of its once-prominent leaders have fallen away from the movement in political disputes with chairman Lech Walesa.

Meanwhile, a new generation of workers, angry at long waits for apartments, a lifetime of market shortages and low Polish wages, has come to the fore. Many of them weren't active in the old Solidarity and have only a vague notion of what they want their new union to become.

Months of talks between government officials and union representatives resulted in agreements on trade union freedoms, economic reforms and political changes, including creation of the first freely elected legislative body in the East bloc.

Solidarity now is built around a circle of old activists, with a sprinkling of new leaders who emerged during two waves of strikes in Poland last year. A national executive committee, known by its Polish initials KKW, was created in October 1987 and is composed of about 20 members, representing various regions or constituencies. Chaired by Walesa, it convenes whenever a major decision is to be made.

Besides its worker base, Solidarity has a brain trust of intellectual advisers linked to the former opposition group KOR, the committee for the defense of workers.

These figures, who played a major role in negotiations leading to the reinstatement of Solidarity, include historian Bronislaw Geremek, essayist Adam Michnik, political theoretician Jacek Kuron and journalist Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The KKW essentially was picked by Walesa from among activists loyal to him. But a circle of these leaders said in December they had formed a "working

group" critical of Walesa's leadership and his willingness to compromise with authorities. Answering their calls for new union elections, Walesa has promised elections after Solidarity is legalised.

Walesa has hinted he would like to relinquish Solidarity's leadership once the union has been firmly re-established. Younger union leaders like Zbigniew Bujak of Warsaw, Wladyslaw Frasyniuk of Wroclaw or Mieczyslaw Gil of the Nowa Huta steel mill in Krakow are considered likely successors.

No one, not even Solidarity, knows how many members it has nationwide. Bujak, at a public forum earlier this year, estimated the figure at about 1 million. Walesa told reporters that he expected it to grow to 5 million to 7 million members.

Union spokesman Wojciech Maziarzki said the number of

factory Solidarity organisations was "growing all the time."

Walesa has said it will be up to the people who join Solidarity to decide how it will be organised.

The national executive commission is meeting Sunday, presumably to draft plans for getting the organisation functioning smoothly as it moves from its underground existence.

The national headquarters, as in 1980-81, is expected to be in Gdansk, where the union was born after widespread strikes in August 1980.

On a factory level, Solidarity will be obliged by its agreement with authorities to cooperate with the official OPZZ trade union during negotiations with management. But the union has made no commitment to cooperate on a regional or national level, something that OPZZ chairman Alfred Miodowicz has protested. Both unions say they expect to

compete with each other. Walesa said he would like to see even more competition, with perhaps a third major union eventually emerging.

Solidarity has said it will support independent candidates in elections planned for June, but will not nominate candidates.

Instead, Walesa inaugurated an advisory citizens' committee last year, drawing together representatives of the mainstream opposition in Poland. The committee will organise political opposition to the ruling Communist Party.

With the introduction of freer elections and the prospect of opposition representation in the Sejm and a new senate this year, Solidarity will be able to drop some of its previous responsibility as the main opposition force in Poland. That will enable it to function solely as a trade union.

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Visite éclair de M. Mubarak à Amman

Le président égyptien Hosni Mubarak s'est entretenu mercredi après-midi avec le roi Hussein avant le départ de ce dernier, lundi prochain, pour les Etats-Unis. Les deux chefs d'Etat souhaitent faire le point sur la rencontre d'Hosni Mubarak et du président américain George Bush, le 3 avril dernier à Washington, pour coordonner leurs positions respectives vis-à-vis du processus de paix au Proche-Orient. Comme le président Mubarak, le roi Hussein soutiendra vraisemblablement le dialogue entamé par l'administration américaine avec l'OLP, lors de sa visite officielle à la Maison Blanche.

Première bourse Michel Seurat

La première «bourse Michel Seurat», créée à la mémoire du chercheur français mort lors de sa détention au Liban, vient d'être attribuée à Claude Guyomarch, étudiant français à l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris. Créée par le Centre national de la recherche scientifique, la bourse, d'un montant de 100.000 francs (environ 16.000 dollars) récompense un jeune chercheur français ou ressortissant d'un pays du Proche-Orient dont la recherche contribue à promouvoir la connaissance réciproque entre la société française et le monde arabe.

Accident d'un Fokker 27 en France: aucun survivant

Un Fokker 27 de la compagnie française Europe Aéro Service (AES) reliant Paris à Valence s'est écrasé lundi soir au dessus du plateau du Vercors, dans le sud-est de la France. L'avion transportait 22 passagers dont trois enfants et trois membres d'équipage. Ils ont tous trouvé la mort dans cet accident dont les causes restent inconnues.

Riposte aux «Versets sataniques»

Un professeur indien musulman, enseignant l'Islam, a publié jeudi dernier un livre, qu'il souhaite vendre dans le monde entier pour riposter au roman controversé de Salman Rushdie, «Les Versets sataniques». M. Majid Ali Khan a présenté son livre, intitulé «Les Versets sacrés», au cours d'une cérémonie, en présence des ministres indiens, de diplomates de pays islamiques et de chefs de la résistance afghane, installés à New-Delhi. L'auteur a déclaré vouloir vendre son livre à prix réduit aux organisations islamiques, «condition qu'elles le distribuent pour mener une campagne contre l'ouvrage de l'écrivain britannique Salman Rushdie».

Chypre et Syrie sans visa

Les Chypriotes sont désormais dispensés d'un visa préalable pour entrer en Syrie et les Syriens pour se rendre à Chypre. Cette décision a été arrêtée par les ministres de l'Intérieur des deux pays, MM. Mohammad Harba (Syrie) et Christodoulos Veniamin (Chypre), lors d'une récente visite de ce dernier à Damas. L'accord prévoit que les ressortissants des deux pays obtiendront un visa en se présentant aux services d'immigration à leur arrivée à l'un des postes frontières.

La France envoie 30 tonnes de nourriture à Djibouti

La France a envoyé lundi par avion 30 tonnes de nourriture à Djibouti, sinistrée par les inondations provoquées par des pluies incessantes. Répondant à la demande des autorités djiboutiennes, la France a mis en place, dès dimanche, un dispositif d'aide d'urgence: envoi de 20 motos-pompes, de vivres, de tentes et de couvertures, ainsi qu'un détachement de 21 marins et sapeurs-pompiers. Pour réduire sans délai le niveau des eaux, la ville de Djibouti a été divisée en quatre secteurs, permettant, par le creusement de canaux appropriés, de faciliter l'accès aux points vitaux de la ville, en particulier à l'hôpital.

La montre la plus chère du monde

La montre «Calibre 89» de l'horloger genevois Patek Philippe a été adjugée aux enchères pour la somme record de 4,5 millions de francs suisses (2,725 millions de dollars). L'acquéreur de cette montre unique, qui passait pour la première fois en vente, est un Sud-Américain. La «Calibre 89», dont la conception et la réalisation ont nécessité 9 ans de travail, comprend 1728 pièces et offre 33 fonctions différentes, dont le jour de la semaine et une date c'est-à-dire permettant de distinguer 2800 états.

Arrivée des navires français au Liban

Feu vert de Salim Hoss

Le gouvernement pro-syrien de Salim Hoss a finalement accepté mercredi soir l'accostage des deux bâtiments français chargés d'une mission humanitaire au Liban. L'accord est intervenu quelques heures après l'intervention directe du président François Mitterrand. Le chef de l'Etat français a solennellement réaffirmé que l'aide de l'Hexagone était destinée à «tous les Libanais».

Le navire-hôpital «La Rance» et le pétrolier «Penhors», chargés par la France d'une mission humanitaire au Liban devaient accoster hier soir dans le port de Beyrouth. Jusqu'au milieu de l'après-midi, la situation semblait devoir rester bloquée, en raison des mises en garde adressées par la Syrie et le gouvernement Hoss aux deux bâtiments, s'ils tentaient d'entrer dans le secteur chrétien de la capitale libanaise. Répondant aux accusations des alliés de Damas, qui estimaient que la France démontrait dans cette opération sa «partialité» en faveur de la communauté chrétienne, François Mitterrand a déclaré que Paris «est et veut demeurer l'ami de tous les Libanais, quelle que soit leur confession ou leur communauté». Des propos bien accueillis par le leader musulman, qui s'est dit satisfait de assurances données par le chef de l'Etat français.

Le «malentendu» entre Salim Hoss et Paris s'était fait jour dès l'appareillage des deux navires, vendredi dernier. Trois jours plus tard, son cabinet accentuait sa pression en soulignant dans un communiqué les «dangers» d'une telle entreprise, «dont le moindre serait de conduire à une dégradation d'une situation relativement calme». L'avertissement devait être ponctué peu après de tirs d'obus en direction du littoral chrétien et du port de Beyrouth où étaient attendus les navires français.

Dépeché sur place dès mardi,

le secrétaire d'Etat à l'aide humanitaire, Bernard Kouchner, devait rencontrer Salim Hoss et son rival chrétien, le général Aoun. Reconnaissant à la fin de ces entrevues, qu'un «bon nombre» de points concrets entraient l'arrivée de l'aide française, M. Kouchner devait annoncer l'immobilisation des deux bâtiments.

Dans le même temps, Paris renouvelait sa confiance dans les efforts de la Ligue arabe pour relancer le dialogue entre les parties libanaises en conflit. Confiance également mise en doute par les Syriens et leurs alliés de Beyrouth.

La semaine dernière, le ministre français des affaires étrangères, Roland Dumas, avait retiré la demande française de «retrait des troupes non libanaises» du Liban. Cette politique, qui écarte pour l'heure l'hypothèse d'une internationalisation de la solution du conflit, arrive à point nommé pour déjouer les réactions syriennes. La presse de Damas a, en effet, accusé la France de «mener une campagne fallacieuse, hostile à la Syrie» et de tous les Libanais, «qui tirent les enseignements de l'affaire des forces multinationales» au Liban. «L'affaire» en question remonte au 23 octobre 1983, jour où un camion bourré d'explosifs avait percuté l'immeuble du contingent français de la force multinationale au Liban, à Beyrouth ouest, causant la mort de 58 parachutistes.

La France joue donc la carte de la Ligue arabe, et n'envisage la saisine du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU qu'en cas d'échec des démarches régionales. Démarches qui ont repris dès hier avec la réunion du Comité des bons offices de la Ligue arabe, à Koweït. Ce comité comprend notamment une délégation du Front libanais, qui regroupe les dirigeants politiques du «camp chrétien». (D'après agences).

Le départ de l'ambassadeur de France

«Une expérience très positive»

Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie depuis juin 1985, M. Patrick Leclercq vient d'être nommé directeur du département Afrique du Nord et Moyen-Orient au ministère des Affaires étrangères à Paris. Avant son départ pour la France, le 16 avril, il évoque pour Le Jourdain son séjour dans le royaume hachémite.

Le Jourdain: Quelle appréciation portez-vous sur votre expérience diplomatique en Jordanie?

Patrick Leclercq: Très positive. La Jordanie offre aux diplomates un accès facile aux plus hauts responsables de l'Etat. Cette particularité permet d'entretenir un dialogue soutenu et intéressant. D'ailleurs, les relations se sont développées beaucoup moins évidentes dans d'autres pays de la région. L'ambassade de France bénéficie également de l'excellente compréhension mutuelle entre Paris et Amman.

L.J.: Les liens entre la France et la Jordanie se sont-ils resserrés, selon vous?

P.L.: C'est très net. Depuis quelques années, les contacts directs entre le roi Hussein et le président de la République, François Mitterrand, se sont multipliés. Nous ressentons très clairement cette volonté jordanienne de dialogue à Amman, notamment sur la question palestinienne.

L.J.: L'Initiade, la percée diplomatique de l'OLP et la rupture des liens administratifs et juridiques entre le royaume et la Cisjordanie y ont-ils contribué?

P.L.: Il s'agit de trois événements majeurs pour l'approche de la question palestinienne et pour le règlement du conflit israélo-arabe. Ils ont modifié les termes

de ces problèmes dans un sens beaucoup plus positif. La France et plus généralement l'Europe, l'ont d'ailleurs souligné, en indiquant à la communauté internationale qu'il y avait là une chance à saisir.

L.J.: Quel rôle y joue la Jordanie?

P.L.: Un rôle très actif, qu'illustre la grande activité diplomatique développée par le roi Hussein, notamment pour renforcer la solidarité arabe. La Jordanie fait des efforts importants pour amener la Syrie et l'Irak, ou encore la Syrie et le Liban, au dialogue. N'oubliez pas que c'est à Amman que s'est tenu en novembre 1987 un sommet réunissant tous les pays arabes, pour la première fois depuis plusieurs années.

L.J.: La situation de la Jordanie, au confluent des conflits du Proche-Orient, fait-elle de ce pays un bon observatoire de la région?

P.L.: Certainement. Les positions géographiques et politiques de la Jordanie n'ont mis en mesure d'être informé au-delà du cadre même de ce pays. Cette situation privilégiée permet d'avoir une vue générale des choses. Le fait que je sois appelé désormais à exercer des responsabilités pour l'ensemble de la région n'y est sans doute pas étranger.

L.J.: Quel est votre sentiment sur les échanges culturels entre la France et la Jordanie?

P.L.: Ils ont été et restent bons. Voyez, par exemple, la coopération archéologique. Depuis une dizaine d'années, notre Institut d'archéologie au Proche-Orient, basé à Beyrouth, maintient une antenne à Amman. La présence permanente de chercheurs fran-



M. Patrick Leclercq

çais et la fréquence des missions temporaires alimentent un courant d'échanges tout à fait remarquables. La récente installation du Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain à Amman laisse présager un renforcement de la coopération scientifique et intellectuelle entre les deux pays. Le centre culturel français est également très actif.

L.J.: Et la francophonie?

P.L.: Nous sommes présents à la télévision, dans les universités, les écoles privées, où environ 15.000 jeunes Jordanais apprennent le français. Le principal obstacle au développement de la francophonie demeure notre absence des écoles publiques. Obstacle que permettra peut-être de franchir dès la rentrée prochaine la première promotion d'étudiants en français, formés par la faculté et destinés à l'enseignement.

L.J.: Quels souvenirs garderez-vous de la Jordanie?

P.L.: D'abord le souvenir d'un pays accueillant et attachant. Celui, ensuite, de superbes paysages et d'un patrimoine très riche, que ni mon épouse ni moi ne sommes prêts d'oublier.

Propos recueillis par Alain Renon.

Les propositions de M. Shamir aux USA

Non catégorique de l'OLP

L'OLP a rejeté dès vendredi dernier par la voix de Yasser Arafat, puis lundi, par l'intermédiaire d'un porte-parole officiel à Tunis, les propositions d'Itzhak Shamir en faveur d'élections dans les territoires occupés, subordonnées à l'arrêt du soulèvement palestinien.

Le leader de l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine a qualifié la déclaration du premier ministre israélien, jeudi à Washington, de «propos déplacés». Yasser Arafat a réaffirmé que «jusqu'à la victoire finale, le soulèvement des populations de Gaza et de Cisjordanie se poursuivra par l'Initiade».

Un représentant officiel de l'OLP à Tunis a estimé en début de semaine que «le plan Shamir

[n'était] qu'une réédition du projet d'autonomie administrative des accords de Camp David». Il a également rappelé que l'organisation palestinienne avait toujours été opposée à tout scrutin «à l'ombre de l'occupation israélienne».

Dans les territoires occupés, les réactions palestiniennes ont été également négatives. Les journaux arabes dénonçant depuis vendredi toute tentative de mise sur la touche de l'OLP. Malgré le soutien appuyé des Etats-Unis au premier ministre israélien, la presse palestinienne souligne que la diplomatie arabe doit poursuivre son effort en faveur d'une conférence internationale de paix au Proche-Orient. (D'après agences).

PARENTHÈSE

Un berger égocentrique

J'ai entendu le chant d'un berger:
Je suis le fils du soleil,
Je suis orage, je suis marin,
Je suis le chant des cigales, les larmes des poètes,
Je suis le gardien de la ville,
Je suis un tremblement de terre,
Je suis terre et lumière, rêve des palmiers du désert,
Je suis une blessure amère,
Je suis la nuit noire qui fait naître les aurores roses,
Je suis les chemins qui ne mènent nulle part.

Je suis, moi, la joie d'une lune échappée des nuages.
Le berger avait alors abandonné son troupeau, marchant seul dans la forêt noire.

Faïçal Al-Zuraigat

Vous aussi, vous écrivez? Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en freelance. Idées originales d'enquêtes et de reportages, poésies... Contacter Alain Renon, Jordan Times, 667171.

SORTIR

Ramadan: vive la nuit



Sourire aux lèvres, cigarette dans une main, shawarma ou glace à l'italienne dans l'autre, les habitants d'Amman envahissent chaque soir les rues de la ville. En famille, en bandes ou seuls. Dès 19h30, l'air, le repas du soir, avalé, c'est l'heure de la promenade et du lèche-vitrine qui commence. Pendant le Ramadan, Amman vit la nuit. Quartiers les plus animés: Djebel Hussein et, bien sûr, la Ville Basse. Tout autour du cercle Firaz, les boutiques et les cafés sont ouverts jusqu'à minuit. Sur la place Hashemi, véritable Agora d'une mois pas comme les autres, on marche en discutant. Un groupe se forme autour d'un joueur de flûte, quelqu'un esquisse un pas de danse et la soirée devient fête. De quoi vous donner envie de vivre le Ramadan toute l'année...

FIGURE

Aux sources de la peinture



Fi du pinceau. A l'instar de nos lointains ancêtres de la Préhistoire, Jean-François Noble préconise la peinture à la main. S'inspirant de leurs techniques picturales, il imprègne ses doigts et ses paumes de couleurs. La main, à la fois palette et pinceau, sillonne la toile, laissant empreintes et traces comme autant de présences enchevêtrées. Ses tableaux mêlent figuratif, abstraction... et gigantisme, offrant à celui qui les observe le choix de l'interprétation.

S'il puise une partie de son inspiration dans ce retour aux sources de la peinture, Jean-François Noble ne se coupe cependant pas des préoccupations contemporaines. Il a simplement choisi de les exprimer dans

un rapport direct entre la peau, la gouache et le support. Présentée pour la première fois en Jordanie, l'œuvre de ce jeune peintre a déjà voyagé dans plusieurs pays européens, notamment en Belgique et en Allemagne fédérale.

Parallèlement à cette exposition, installée dans les jardins du Haya Arts Centre, Jean-François Noble animera un atelier pour les enfants de 6 à 11 ans, qu'il initiera à la peinture à la main.

L'exposition et l'atelier seront ouverts au public du 19 au 27 avril inclus. Jardins du Haya Arts Centre, Tous les jours de 20h30 à 23h00. Renseignements pour les inscriptions à l'atelier pour enfants au CCF (Tel: 637009).

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

La belle équipe

De Julien Duvivier, avec Jean Gabin, Vivienne Romance, Charles Vanel et Raymond Cordy (1936). Un petit groupe d'ouvriers, victimes du chômage dans les années 30, affrontent les difficultés de la vie quotidienne. Désœuvrés mais amis inséparables, ils tentent leur chance à la loterie nationale... et décrochent le gros lot. Une somme faramineuse qu'ils décident d'investir dans une guinguette... CCF, lundi 17 avril à 20h30 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Cine-club

En raison du Ramadan, le ciné-club ne propose que deux séances, respectivement à 20h00 et 21h30. Tous les films projetés cette semaine ont été primés aux Oscars.
Le 13: A fish called Wanda et The last emperor.
Le 14: Who framed Roger Rabbit et Milagro, bean field.
Le 15: The accused et Gorillas in the mist.
Le 16: Mississippi learning et Working girl.
Le 17: Platoon et Children of a lesser God.
Le 18: Moon strike et Wallstreet.

Le 19: To kill a mocking bird et The machine.

Films en version originale. Tel: 663991. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem pour prendre à gauche, 300 m.

CONFERENCE

Bible et histoire

Réflexion et débat sur les origines de l'Etat Hébreu, par Jean-Michel de Aaragon, docteur en histoire, professeur à l'Ecole Biblique de Jérusalem. CCF, lundi 17 avril à 17h (en français).

PEINTURE

Retour aux sources

Jean-François Noble expose ses toiles, peintes à la main. (Voir article) ci-dessus.

TELEVISION

«Colargole», dessin animé pour les enfants (JTV), vendredi 14 avril à 17h30.
«Four que d'autres puissent valent», téléfilm de Jean-Daniel Simon. En février 1944, quatre jeunes, qui vivent dans la clandestinité, se préparent à libérer leurs amis de la Résistance d'une prison allemande... (JTV, vendredi 14 avril à 18h10).

Cent ans après son inauguration à Paris

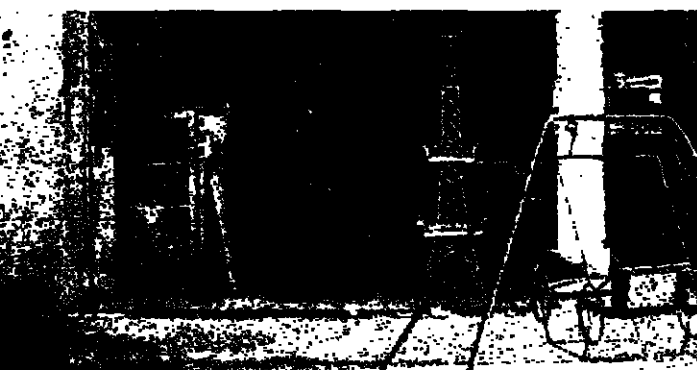
La tour Eiffel s'empare d'Amman

Paris fête ce, printemps le centenaire de la tour Eiffel. Fierté des Parisiens, la «vieille dame de fer», qui attend cette année cinq millions de visiteurs, a fait des petits. Des petits qui fleurissent sur les toits des immeubles et des villas d'Amman, depuis qu'un amoureux du plus célèbre monument de France a décidé de s'en faire construire une réplique pour porter son antenne de télévision.

Il y a la vraie, qui du haut de ses 278 mètres, a attiré en un siècle plus de 125 millions de visiteurs. Il y a la minuscule, pendue au bout du porte-clés souvenir, qui ont envahi les boutiques fréquentées par les cohortes de touristes, à Paris et ailleurs. Qui pouvait imaginer, il y a vingt ans, qu'entre le gigantisme de la première et ses millions de reproductions miniatures viendrait se glisser, à Amman, une génération spontanée de tours Eiffel, vouées au tube cathodique?

Personne. Pas même Nadin S. Al-Djani, qui fit installer un jour de 1966 une antenne, modèle «vieille dame de fer», sur le toit de sa ville, à deux pas du quatrième cercle. «A l'époque, la télévision jordanienne n'existait pas encore, explique-t-il. Pour capter les programmes égyptiens, syriens, libanais, ou même israéliens, j'avais besoin d'une structure élevée et très solide».

Son amour du petit écran, doublé de sa passion pour Paris, où son métier d'agent commercial d'IBM l'a souvent conduit, ont fait de la tour Eiffel un objet de culte. Une photo de la tour Eiffel en poche, il s'est rendu à Naour où connaissait un artisan ferronnier. «Je lui ai demandé de me fabriquer une antenne d'une vingtaine de mètres qui ressemble au cliché, c'est tout». Le résultat



Abdullah Jemal et son modèle (en haut à gauche). La tour Eiffel, version jordanienne (en bas à gauche) et version originale (à droite).

ont été sur cette nouveauté, se souvient un propriétaire de Shmeisani. En quelques mois, quatre ou cinq de mes voisins en avaient achetée une... La mienne n'a été installée qu'en 1978. «Le syndrome effiel» n'a pas épargné les familles modestes. Beaucoup se sont saignées aux quatre veines pour s'offrir une structure métallique dont le prix avoisine aujourd'hui les 700 dinars. «Elles sont d'ailleurs souvent plus ressemblantes que la mienne», sourit le «pionnier», en contemplant celle de son voisin de l'autre côté de la rue.

«Les habitants d'Amman se



Abdullah Jemal et son modèle (en haut à gauche). La tour Eiffel, version jordanienne (en bas à gauche) et version originale (à droite).

«Leur nombre est impossible à chiffrer, souligne le Dr Rafi Omar, de la Chambre de commerce. Il y a, à Amman, une multitude de petits ateliers qui travaillent le fer et auxquels les gens s'adressent directement. A défaut de se développer en une véritable industrie, la construction de ces antennes est parfois devenue l'une des spécialités de certains artisans, au même titre que les balançoires pour enfants ou les balcons en fer forgé.

«Porte du Paradis» Ains des trois frères Jemal,

(1) Parmi eux figurait le romancier Alexandre Dumas, qui signe une pétition «protestant contre cette chimie vertigineusement ridicule à la gloire du vandalisme des entreprises industrielles». Les monarchies européennes s'émurent tout autant, voyant dans la tour Eiffel une «provocation républicaine».



Traditional medicine alive and well in Bangladesh

Bangladesh, with the help of the World Health Organisation, has embarked on a crash programme to extend health facilities through the traditional Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine.

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

DHAKA — Faced with all the severe health problems of one of the world's poorest countries and recovering from two years' devastating floods, Bangladesh opens a new graduate college of medicine in July.

But the graduates won't be studying Western medicine. With support from the World Health Organisation (WHO), they will be learning the techniques of traditional Unani and Ayurvedic healing.

In an attempt to reach the WHO's target of "Health for all by the year 2000," Bangladesh has embarked on a programme to reinvigorate Unani and Ayurvedic medicines alongside the present public health care delivery system, which is based on Western medicine.

According to the director of the project for the development of indigenous medicines, Colonel (ret'd) Ishaque Huq, the traditional healers are already playing the key role in primary health care: they live and operate in the villages, where 85 per cent of Bangladeshis live, but where physicians educated in Western medicines don't want to go.

The traditional medicines are very effective, Huq says. Many common ailments such as fever,

diarrhoea, dysentery, piles, indigestion, common colds, coughs, headaches, cuts and burn injuries, can be tackled effectively at the village level by the use of herbs without imported technology.

Now Ayurvedic and Unani medicines have been put under the national drug administration, and efforts are underway to impose quality and price control.

So far, 850 drug manufacturing licences for the traditional systems have been issued. But quality control has been difficult — because an individual item of medicine can have as many as 50 ingredients, and different manufacturers follow different formulas according to different books.

A standard national formula for the Unani and Ayurvedic system is being prepared by an expert committee with WHO assistance and this will make quality control easier. The government has pledged to open a separate directorate under the Minister of Health and Family Planning to deal with the traditional systems.

Meanwhile, about 600 traditional healers who have had no formal education or training have been given two-month crash courses to help them be more effective in their work.

The graduate college will offer

a six-year course including a one-year internship in an attached 100-bed hospital; 50 students will be trained in Ayurvedic, and 50 in Unani medicine. The course curricula have been finalised and 10 specially trained teachers appointed — who now await the government signal to begin admission procedures.

The two traditional systems have been popular for centuries throughout Bangladesh — especially in the rural areas where Western medicines were unavailable until recently.

Long neglect and official patronage for Western medicine forced the traditional systems into decline. The systems also suffered two major historical setbacks: the partition of India, and later the separation of Bangladesh from West Pakistan.

After the 1947 partition of India most of the qualified Ayurvedic physicians left Bangladesh (then called East Pakistan). The kitchen gardens of essential medicinal plants that they had individually maintained were lost with them.

The second setback came during the 1971 war of independence which created Bangladesh: Jogesh Chandra Ghose, the soul behind the country's biggest Ayurvedic pharmacy — the Sadhana Aushadhalaya — was killed, and the owner-managers of the biggest Unani medicine manufacturers — Hamdard Dawakhana — left for Pakistan. Before 1971, the Sadhana Aushadhalaya pharmacy had even exported medicine.

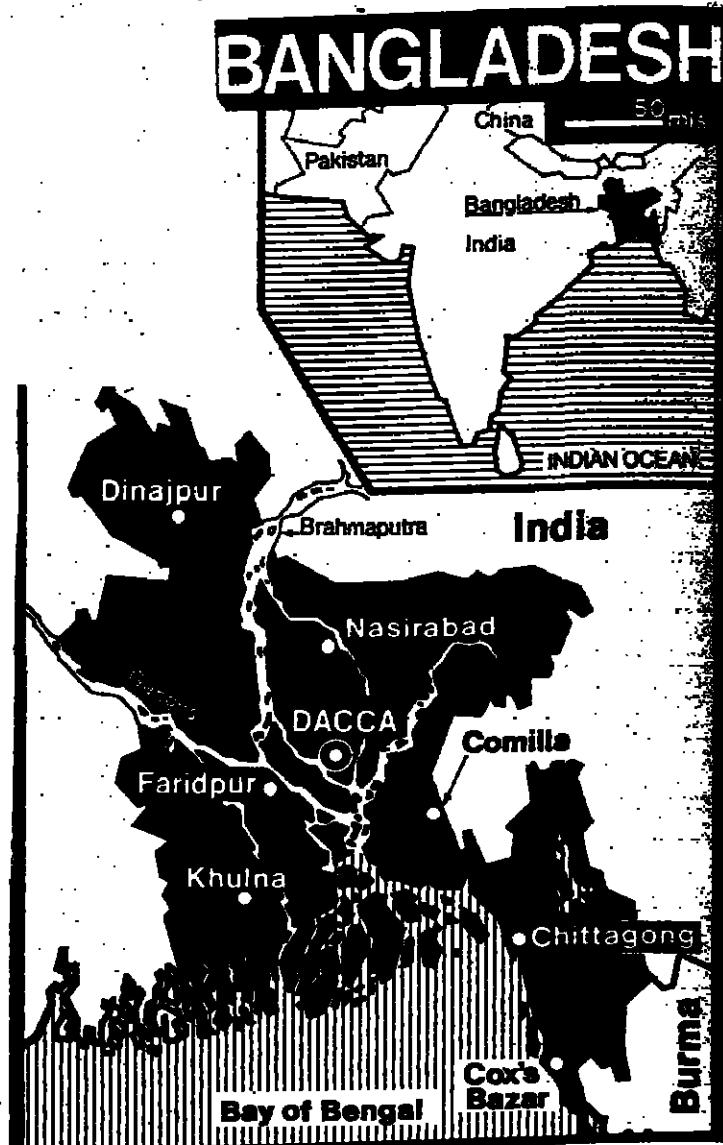
Under the new plans, Ishaque Huq says, one old Unani medical college — which produced only secondary-level diplomas — is to be redeveloped, and three more higher secondary level Unani and Ayurvedic colleges are to be established at Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. The government is also supporting 10 other privately run colleges.

At present, there are about 700 Unani and Ayurvedic physicians who have higher secondary level diplomas and 500 others trained by way of a short course. An estimated 30,000 healers are also practising in market-places, on trains, launches, steamers, and buses.

In comparison, about 12,000 Western-style graduate doctors operate through half a dozen specialised medical institutes, eight medical college hospitals, about 60 district hospitals and about 450 health complexes at local levels under the public health care delivery system.

But where will the traditional healers get continued supplies of the precious medicinal plants they need? Some 300 such plants out of about 500 identified so far in the country are now in regular use, says Ahmed Mozharul Huq, the Chief Scientific Officer of the Bangladesh National Herbarium.

According to one estimate, he says, the 56 major Unani and Ayurvedic medicine manufacturers each year use about 408 tonnes of fruits, seeds and tree bark, 336 tonnes of shrubs, and 386 tonnes of herbs. But the large



medicine manufacturers do not have plantations of their own, and collect raw materials through agents or markets.

Continued extraction of the medicinal plants from jungles without any effort at planned cultivation and conservation has

made about 25 species of plants so scarce that their collection from forests is no longer viable commercially, a pharmacist at the local Ayurvedic pharmacy says. Hence large-scale producers have started importing such plants — Panos

Meeting Ms. Right

By Andrew Perala
Reuters

ANCHORAGE — After Susie Carter's husband lost his job as an oilfield welder two years ago, the Anchorage couple found themselves working at multiple jobs to pay their bills.

One of them gave the Carters the idea that money could be made introducing lonely Alaskan men to the rest of the world.

To survive in one of North America's most expensive cities, Dave Carter delivered pizzas, did bookkeeping and helped Susie tend the 10 children enrolled in her at-home day care centre.

It was there that their match-making magazine *Alaskamen* was conceived.

Each day, a stream of single fathers dropped off and picked up their children. They were mostly young, mostly good-looking and, nearly all searching for "Ms. Right."

Taking a gamble with his life-savings, the Carters created a quarterly magazine filled with photos and life stories, condensed into five paragraphs or less, of the available men.

The formula worked. Women responded with thousands of letters and the 100,000 copies normally printed do not meet demand. Susie Carter says copies are sold in New York City for eight times the \$5.95 cover price.

"Women are calling me and complaining," said the engaging, twice-married mother of nine, referring to the shortage.

Alaskamen has a list of 150 hopefuls waiting their turn for space in its pages, each eager to pose for a photograph — fully dressed — beside his small plane or canoe. They can wait for up to a year.

Book and movie

The Carters say they plan to

publish similar versions of the magazine in every state and a half dozen countries.

A book and a movie on the life of 46-year-old Susie are in the works.

The couple closed their day care centre last November as the magazine's circulation skyrocketed.

Life was not easy in the beginning. Susie Carter worked on the magazine until 2 a.m. seven days a week, badgering friends and relatives for the names of men to profile, lining up volunteers and writing copy.

The couple decided to publish the magazine on glossy paper, to give it the look of a quality publication. That greatly increased the cost — in dollars for the initial modest run of 5,000 copies.

"We sank our entire life savings into it, about \$30,000," said Susie Carter.

Gary Apperson, an Anchorage policeman whose story and photo appeared in the third issue, received 150 letters from around the United States. He also heard from women in Brazil and South Africa.

Even after Apperson told his correspondents he had become engaged — although not to one of them — half wrote back. He says he still writes regularly to 30 of the women.

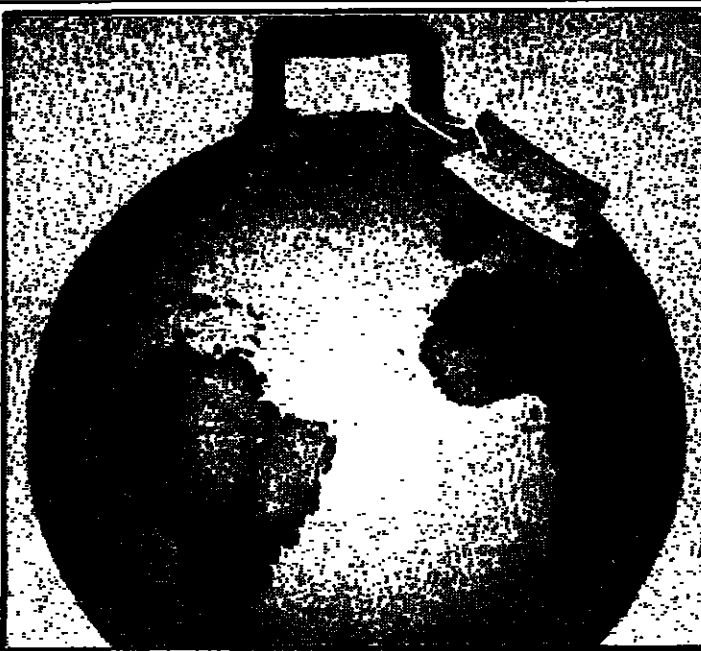
"They're pen pals," he said. "A lot of them are lonely and about half seem to be single mothers. A lot asked questions with a common theme — 'what's it like living in Alaska? Are glaciers really blue? What's your (astrological) sign?'"

Many of the women write: "This is the first time I've ever done anything like this."

Some send telephone numbers, others photos of themselves and their children.

One wrote: "I'm sure not used to this single life. I was married 10 years and been divorced nine months. It's a very big change for me."

Such talk is music to the ears of Susie Carter. "I don't like to see people unhappy," she says.



The great longing

The Greeks of Astoria

ASTORIA — The third largest Greek city in the world in terms of population, after Athens and Thessaloniki, is Astoria: that district of New York, not far from the heart of Manhattan, which is the home of hundreds of thousands of Greek Americans.

In 1927 there were only 17 Greek families in Astoria, with five children attending the Greek school of St. Dimitrios. Today Astoria is the largest Greek community outside Greece.

"Astoria offers something that you don't find anywhere else: to be far from Greece and yet to feel that you are in a Greek village with its shops, churches, schools and theatres," says Jenny Markotou in her epilogue, and this consideration has guided her highly sensitive camera lens during her three years of peregrinations through Astoria's streets, its Greek shops and houses, its courtyards, tavernas, its graveyard and the religious and national celebrations of this teeming village, which remains resolutely Greek at heart. The result is this fine album, which succeeds in giving a personal testimony on the life of the Greek immigrants.

"The city here is Astoria in New York. But their way of thinking must be the same for Greeks wherever they are," says Greece's Minister of Culture, Melina Mercouri, in her foreword, while a distinguished Greek American, former Governor of Massachusetts and suitor for the Democratic candidacy for the Presidency in the 1988 elections, Michael Dukakis, in his own foreword confirms the accuracy of the picture given by the photographs: "The brilliantly photographed scenes bring out



the emotions, the hopes and aspirations and the stark realities of day-to-day life... As the son of Greek immigrants I found in Astoria a deep appreciation of my own roots and heritage."

This picture of the day-to-day existence of a populous community, which in the not so distant past was uprooted from its natural surroundings and is attempting to acclimatise to a foreign culture, communicates on every page something deeply moving. One has constantly the feeling of an incurable sense of something missed, which persists and taunts in the midst of a wealth of material goods. What exactly it is that these people miss, what they long for and what is the object of their nostalgia is not easy to define.

Below a lot of the photographs, though not as captions, are the words of various unnamed immigrants. These form a testimony in parallel with the photographs, supplementing them in such a way as to produce a rounded whole.

Here is one such extract, one which perhaps provides the key to an approach to the core of this book:

"For me America is very nice. I adore it. I haven't learnt English. It was a great mistake because I should have gone to school. But how could I go? I had five children and one miscarriage. Who'd look after the children for me? My husband was at work — sometimes he'd come home at

midnight, sometimes at one o'clock. I didn't even learn how to drive a car, which was my wish."

"I don't know any Americans, only Greeks come in and out of my house. I missed a lot of things in my life, because I sacrificed myself for my children. Because I never spoke English to my children, so that they would learn Greek. And, even today, I speak to them in Greek."

After such a *cri de coeur* — only one of many to be found in the laconic texts — the reader looks with a lump in the throat at the fragments of everyday life captured on film: even the lack of taste, the physical ugliness and the raucous kitsch fail to be repellent. On the contrary, they attract because they are so human.

What will be next?

Is Hollywood for sale?

By John Horn
The Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Foreign investors are moving through this town as though it were a giant swap meet, with Australia's Qintex Group offering \$1 billion for United Artists and Japan's Sony Corp. browsing for a similar property.

Never before has overseas fascination in the entertainment industry reached such a feverish level, as large and small studios are now changing hands at the rate of one a month.

Sparked by the prospects of a deregulated European television

market, advances in entertainment technology worldwide and a favourable exchange rate, companies and investors from many countries are taking a keen interest in Hollywood.

In addition to Friday's move by Qintex, British broadcaster television South PLC acquired television producer MTM enterprises for \$310 million in July.

Australian businessman Alan Saffron bought film producer Atlantic Entertainment in December for an undisclosed amount, and Italian producers Giancarlo Parretti and Florio Fiorini have been grabbing up a variety of Hollywood properties

in 1989, including mini-studios, cannon group and new world pictures.

For the past few days, Hollywood has been abuzz with rumours that Sony Corp. was set to purchase entertainment conglomerate MCA Inc., a deal that analysts say is worth about \$5 billion. While officials from both companies insist that no bryout is in the works, such a merger does make sense for the Japanese entertainment hardware giant.

Sony purchased CBS records — home of Michael Jackson and Bruce Springsteen — for more than \$2 billion in 1988, and has made no secret that it wants to buy a film studio.

"We're looking at Hollywood because of our interest in video, precisely the same reason we looked at CBS records because of our interest in audio," Sony Vice Chairman Michael Schuloff said recently.

Even though the film industry is enjoying record profits overall, several studios are desperately in need of money.

Although MCA is not one of them, a Sony purchase would give the Japanese enterprise not only premium film producer Universal Studios, but also a valuable film and television library, MCA records, Universal Television, MCA home video, MCA's growing theme park franchise, a cable television unit, a publishing group, a concert and sports merchandising arm, and a 49 per cent share in movie theatre chain cinemaplex Odeon.

"(Sony) is probably looking for software to complement their hardware," said Chris Jones, an entertainment analyst. "What buying is up to question. They could even just be interested in obtaining the Asian distribution rights."

Jeffrey Logsdon, director of Institutional Research for Crowell Weedon and Co., financial firm, said recently that by

buying a successful film producer, Sony and other foreign companies would be absolved from the responsibility of matching Hollywood expertise.

"There are four parts to a successful movie studio," Logsdon said. "You have to have creative talent. You've got to have production capabilities. You've got to have marketing and distribution clout. And then you've got to have finance. Wherever you go in the world, people just don't seem to be able to duplicate the first two parts that are inherent within U.S. studios."

"So, rather than trying to go out and trying to reinvent the wheel yourself — and as long as American culture is going to be held out as some kind of world standard — I think there's going to be an attractiveness to those assets," Logsdon said.

MCA has quite a few assets. In 1982, Universal released the highest-grossing movie ever, "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," and the film went on to set records at the nation's video stores in 1988. The company also reaped large profits from 1973's "The Sting," 1975's "Jaws," 1983's "Back to the Future," and last year's "Twins."

MCA records carries the popular teen vocalist Tiffany, as well as the sultry star Sheena Easton and young soul singer Bobby Brown.

In June 1988, a joint venture which is 20 per cent owned by MCA acquired the record company assets of Motown Record Corp.

Universal studios Hollywood was the nation's fourth most popular theme park last year, drawing 4.2 million visitors. The \$500 million Universal studios Florida is set to open in May 1990 with a combination of behind-the-scenes tour of moviemaking and thrill rides based on movies.

"NOTICE"
AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION
FOR PURCHASING (40)
PHOSPHATE HOPPER
WAGONS
TENDER NUMBER 1/89

Aqaba Railway Corporation announces that it has made the deadline for accepting offers for tender number 1/89 12 o'clock, Tuesday 6/8/89 instead of Wednesday 3/5/89.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
MARDI QATAMIN
AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION

Cinema

CONCORD

Tel: 677420

BODY ROCK
Starring
Lorenzo Lamas

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



Cinema

NUJUM

Tel: 675571

STRIKER

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema

PLAZA

Tel: 677420

OUTRAGEOUS

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



Getting ready for Alaska!

سكيتا لاس

Scanning Afghanistan

U.N. expeditions have been examining the war-battered regions of Afghanistan to assess damage and suggest remedies.

By Annick Billard

GENEVA — A detailed study of the conditions in war-torn Afghanistan is being carried out in a United Nations-sponsored operation aimed at the eventual repatriation of refugees.

Since the U.N. launched its programme of humanitarian and economic assistance in May 1988, teams of experts have fanned out in parts of Afghanistan to survey damage and suggest reconstruction and restoration work.

Six missions have gone into the affected areas to examine the state of agricultural production, communications, transport and the extent of damage to buildings.

It is an unprecedented effort: never before has the United Nations sent exploratory missions on such a large scale to a country still in the grip of war. The missions took place in extremely difficult conditions, resulting in the deaths of an Afghan national looking after horses as well as several of the animals. The men and women on U.N. duties braved tough winter conditions in journeys over hundreds of kilometres. Trucks, cars, donkeys and horses were used to negotiate battered tracks; in some cases the U.N. experts, accompanied by Afghan guides, simply walked.

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) played a key role in all six Salam expeditions. Afghan guides helped the teams with the dangerous task of avoiding minefields, spotting the ruins and drawing attention to critical needs.

The operations Salam 1 and Salam 2 started from the Iranian border and Kabul respectively and focused on the Herat region. Salam 3, the longest of all the missions, traversed the northeast, including the city of Bamian, as well as the south. Salam 4 should also have gone to the Panjshir but could not get there as it was stopped on the way by a group of armed men. Salam 5 and 6, setting out from Peshawar, Pakistan, went to the Kunar valley and the province of Paktia.

The expeditions found evidence of massive damage and destruction along their routes, although stability had returned to some of the areas examined.

Alfredo Witschi-Cestari, participating in Salam 3 on behalf of UNHCR, said, "In the Panjshir valley most of the infrastructure has been destroyed. In some places one can no longer find any trace of the roads or the bridges. As the valley is really a very narrow canyon, the way along it is sometimes only a metre-wide hole through the rocks."

"Everywhere," he said, "(there) were the same pictures of desolation, evidence of the war, abandoned tanks, ruins of people's homes, blasted fields and asphalt roads torn up by heavy vehicles."

While they were unable to estimate the loss of life, the members of the mission saw countless makeshift graves. The few hospitals still functioning were filled with the injured. Many of these were children who had stepped on mines while collecting wood or minding the goats.

Nearly 40 per cent of Herat city lay in ruins, although some 140,000 people were still living there. Trees and vegetation in the surrounding had been destroyed. Of the 1,300 villages in the province of Herat, 600 had been destroyed or seriously damaged.

"Visiting western Herat is like a visit to Verdun in 1919," said Olivier Roy, representing Salam 1, in reference to the northeastern French town devastated in a World War I battle. "For 20 kilometres there is nothing but ruins; the roads and fields are overgrown with weeds."

"In a landscape churned up by shells and bombs, people frequently uncover the remains of peasants buried in their houses. The hulls of tanks lie rusting on the verges. Unexploded 500 kilogramme bombs lie stuck in the ground like beetroot."

Although hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in the war, and five million Afghans have fled, mainly to Pakistan and Iran, there are still between 10 and 11 million people in the country: men who have stayed to fight, and families or whole groups of population that have moved from village to village in search for shelter.

Everywhere along their routes, the Salam missions met these "internal migrants." Many were going back to their homes to try

to put down their roots again. Families were seen rebuilding shattered houses, restoring wells blocked by stones and gravel, hoeing fields. The essential purpose of the exploratory operation was to identify the most urgent needs and to assess the possibilities of resettlement of refugees and displaced persons. Each mission therefore submitted to its coordinator its observations and recommended priorities.

The first problem obviously is security. Even if the fighting stops, a large part of the country is still peppered with minefields and stray shells. The removal of mines therefore is essential to the return of the inhabitants. Another problem is secure transportation; the highway infrastructure is in such a poor state that road accidents are a major risk. Moving large numbers of women, children and older persons is not only difficult, it is also dangerous.

The poor infrastructure means that food supply and rehabilitation assistance cannot easily reach newly opened areas. The only usable routes are the main roads from Pakistan, Iran and the Soviet Union. This will severely limit the number of entry points for relief convoys. The returnees and displaced persons will all need international aid. The immediate priority will be food. The U.N. personnel believe that the food shortages could get worse and affect the whole country. Although wheat is under cultivation in some areas at up to 3,500 metres above sea level, the crop yields are insufficient. Returning farmers need seeds, equipment and livestock to resume their lives.

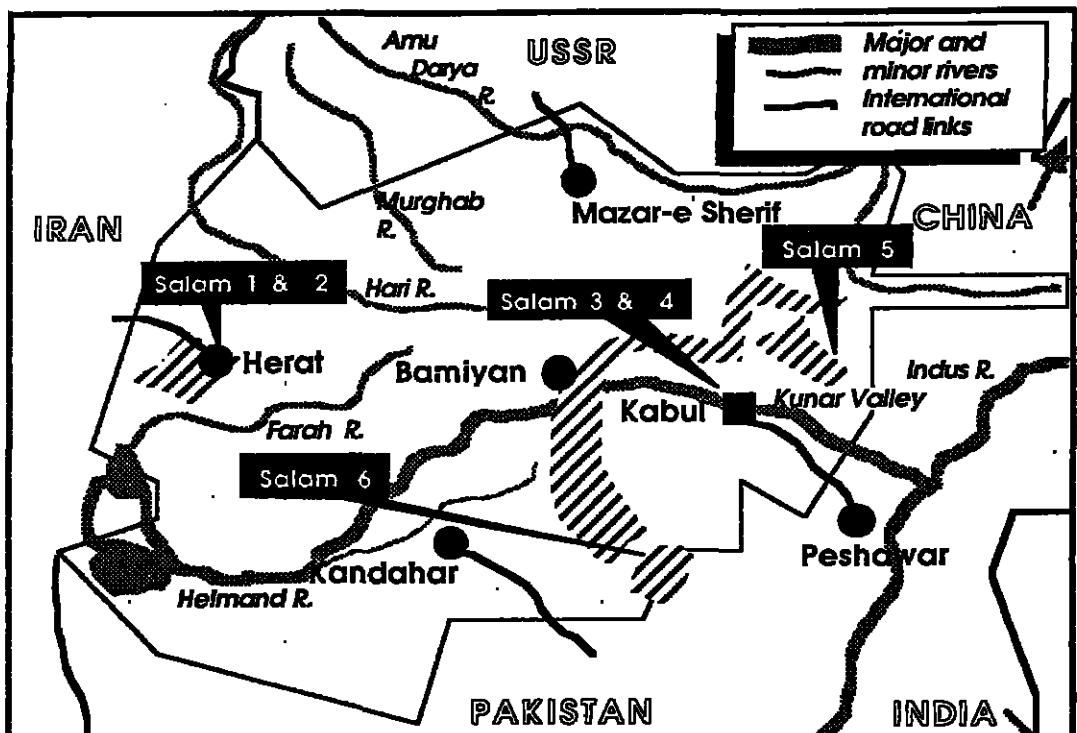
On the plus side, however, the economic and social organisation of the Afghan communities remains strong. Herat, for example, has retained a well-structured organisation which should assist reconstruction once the fighting stops.

The traditional values of the Afghan also have survived through the war. Although there is widespread poverty, there is no destitution or undernourishment on the scale found in other areas of conflict.

But, even as the Salam missions were able to collect considerable data, more detailed analyses will be needed by technical specialists for a coordinated reconstruction and repatriation programme. But these must await the return of peace to Afghanistan — Academic File.



Afghan refugees in Peshawar, Pakistan.



War & Agriculture in Afghanistan

Farmers reporting	1978	1980	1985	1986	1987
Destruction of irrigation systems	22	679	1,255	1,035	5,997
Burning of crops	2	194	583	434	207
Bombing of village	12	1,178	2,741	1,941	1,135
Destruction of grain store	10	343	696	524	140
Summary shooting of livestock	2	488	1,165	682	314
Loss of livestock to mines	4	97	331	259	110

Sources: UNHCR & The Agricultural Survey of Afghanistan

© Academic File

Focus on People

On art and civilisation

By Mariam M. Shahin

This week Fuad Mimi talks to Focus on People about the art of appreciating art.

"Not everyone in the world can be an artist, but almost anyone should be able to appreciate art," says Fuad Mimi. Mimi is a man of many arts: painter, television director, producer, writer, art collector, teacher and fashion designer. Relaxing in his sanctuary, a room full of antique Middle Eastern artifacts, paintings, family photographs and countless ceramic vases, he speaks of his life, art, and Jordan. Of course, all are so interrelated that they are really one and the same subject.

"I've always known that I wanted to make art my career because it's not just a job, it's a whole way of life. Everyone around me has always encouraged me to pursue a life in the arts." Born in 1950, in Lod, Palestine, Fuad moved to Amman in 1958 with his mother and brother. His father, who passed away in Ramallah prior to the family's move to Amman, was a singer by hobby and also had other musical talents. Fuad's maternal grandfather had been actively involved in the world of painters and writers and thus the stage had already been set for him to be a child protege.

During his early years, Fuad Mimi wrote articles in local newspapers and magazines. At 14, he was approached by Wafiq Tal, who was then director of broadcasting in Jordan, to write a radio magazine programme. It was only natural that Mimi's radio career gradually extended to television. Although the subject matters varied, Mimi made it a point to place a special emphasis on art, in all its different facets.

It was not, however, until the early 1970s, when a number of Jordanian art students returned home after studies in places as diverse as Iraq, Egypt and Europe, that Mimi became professionally involved in the art scene. "The person who had the greatest influence on me was Aziz Ammouira," Mimi recalls.

"He encouraged me to start painting professionally. Although I was head over heels involved in television, I began painting seriously, but without making a fuss out of the whole thing. In 1975 I surprised everyone with the opening of my first exhibition." Other exhibitions in Jordan, Europe and the Middle East followed.

Mimi, who has paid extensive visits to both Western and Eastern Europe as well as North America and the Middle East, believes that travel is an essential part of the education process. "Even travelling in your own country, you can learn so much," he says. There is so much to see in Jordan; there are so many different types of landscapes. Unfortunately, it seems that not enough people bother to explore and appreciate our country's natural beauty."

Mimi, who also teaches art at a private girls school in Amman, underscores two main factors. "First of all, the home environment is very important if a child is to learn to appreciate art. Wealth is not a necessity here. Many people think that art or artistic talents can be bought or acquired with money. This is not the case. It is often a matter of aesthetics and awareness of fine detail. Unfortunately, we are still plagued by superficial values and tastes that have impeded the acquisition of the appreciation of art for art's sake."

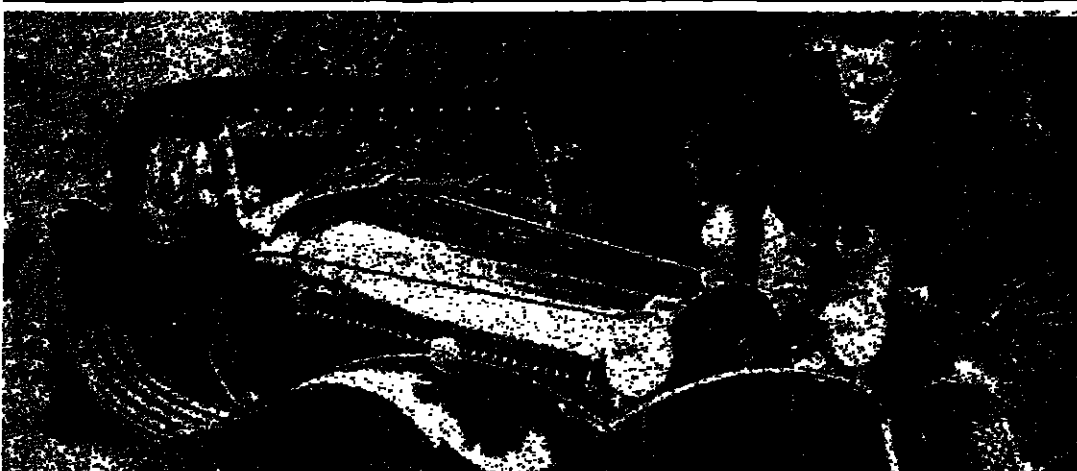
Secondly, and almost as important as the home environment, is the formal education children receive in schools. "Look at what's happening in Iraq," Mimi points out. "They are treating art as a major subject in their schools and it's helping the kids in their development a lot. They are growing emotionally and psychologically on different spheres."

Mimi says he feels that painting is "the method" in which he can express himself, and he wishes that he can share his love for the arts with others. "There is so much to be learned and so much to be done," he says. "Our artisans have too much free time on their hands and too little work. There is not enough demand on handmade practical works of art. We went into the cold industrial age without ever actually becoming an industrial country. We adapted the tastes and mannerisms of a society with which we had only superficial similarities. That's why artistic creations were at an impasse for quite some time in Jordan. Now we have returned (along with the rest of the world) to a more romantic age."

Having gone into retirement from television four years ago, Mimi now hopes to bring back some of the "romance and humanism that we have lost to the business age."

"We may even create an atmosphere of art appreciation in Jordan if we can work as a team," he sighs. "After all art is an indicator of civilisation."

P.S. Fuad Mimi has one of the largest private collections of Jordanian and Arab paintings in Jordan and shortly hopes to open a private museum to the public.



In 1932 Bugatti built only 32 units of its famous model 55 sports roadster. A French antique car lover, Xavier de la Chapelle has rebuilt the car above at a cost of \$50,000. Powered by a BMW motor it can reach a speed of 150 kph now.

Bugatti relaunched in heart of Italian racing country

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

ROME — In the heart of Italian racing car country, a motoring legend is being relaunched.

An all-new Bugatti rivaling the technical expertise, style and cost of the cars Italian designer Ettore Bugatti built mainly for royalty in the 1930s is nearing completion in Modena and orders are already flooding in.

The prototype Bugatti, powered by a 3.5-litre, 525 horsepower, 12-cylinder engine, will be ready by December.

Production, to be limited to 100 cars a year, is expected to start next year, said technical Director Paolo Stanzani.

It will combine performance worthy of a formula one grand prix racing car with the comfort of a luxury saloon. And, although the body has yet to be designed, Stanzani has firm ideas about what the car will look like.

"It will be low and aggressive ... it must maintain the flavour of an elegant, classy car, typical of the old Bugattis. It must perform well everywhere, on the road or on the track, but it must also be right for visiting the opera," he said.

"It will be impossible to confuse it with any other kind of car on the road," he added in an interview.

The price of the new Bugatti has not been revealed but industry sources expect it to be around \$300,000, competitive with the current \$276,000 on-the-road Italian price of the eight-cylinder,

Ruia horsepower Ferrari F40.

Milan-born Ettore Bugatti died in Paris in 1947 and his company, based at Molsheim, France, did not long survive him.

The new car is being built by Bugatti Automobili SPA, which was founded in October. Qoium in Modena and is 65 per cent owned by Luxembourg-based Bugatti International S.A., which in turn owns the historic marque.

"The car was born of the determination of Bugatti International to protect the name and the image of the most famous car company in the world," said Stanzani who is also chairman of Bugatti Automobili.

Designer of the Lamborghini Countach in 1971 and later the Urraco. He lists a series of technical innovations for the Bugatti that leaves most car enthusiasts breathless.

The V-12 Engine, currently being tested at a new 80,000 square metre factory being built just 20 kilometres from Ferrari headquarters, would surely have pleased the late Ettore Bugatti, whose desire for perfection and beauty raised car-building to an art form.

The new Bugatti will sport a six-speed gearbox, four-wheel drive, and a double suspension system which will allow the driver to switch from road to track performance at the touch of a lever, Stanzani said.

It will be powered by four turbochargers — one for each group of three cylinders — and, like formula one racing cars, two injectors for each cylinder to give

a comfortable top speed of more than 300 kilometres per hour.

Faithful to the Bugatti motto "If a thing has already been done, it's a good reason to do it a different way," Stanzani and his team have borrowed materials more common to the aerospace industry like carbon, titanium and special alloys to reduce weight and increase efficiency.

"Titanium, which is almost half the weight of steel but costs 100 times as much when worked, will be used for the connecting rods. The disc brakes will be carbon," he said.

The project rivals the most ambitious of those undertaken by Ettore Bugatti in France during the 1920s and 1930s.

Bugatti, who as boy was attracted to sculpture, had already produced a racing car for Le Mans and several other models before beginning work on his dream car — the type 41, Bugatti Royale.

Five point seven metres long, with an eight-cylinder, EPP horsepower engine, the Bugatti Royale was built for a monarch's taste but launched in the middle of the great depression.

King Alfonso XIII of Spain, the first intended client, was forced to abdicate before the Royale was ready. Some other monarchs feared the \$43,000 asking price — then three times the price of a Rolls-Royce — might provoke a revolution and declined to buy.

Only six models were made and one changed hands for \$9.79 million at auction in London.

Kenya's Harambee system pays for self-help projects

By David Riss
Reuters

NAIROBI — In Kenya, when people want a new school, a hospital ward or just to send a child away to school, they throw a party and ask guests to stump up the money.

They call it Harambee — swahili for "pulling together". The event usually features a lot of oratory, maybe a raffle of goats or chickens, a chance to catch up on gossip.

As Nairobi office worker Nelly Mwanja explained at a recent Harambee, the custom is part of the glue that holds Kenyan society together, a symbol of Kenyan nationalism since independence in 1963 Kenya's motto is "harambee".

"You don't have to go and give, but next time if you're the one who's needing some help, there may be nobody around to offer any," she said, when asked why she had come to raise money for a hospital.

She said she probably goes to at least one a month — and is invited to more.

Sometimes, it gets to be a little too much," she said.

In fact, some Kenyans believe a worrying element of compulsion is creeping into the system. A member of parliament from western Kenya, Sammy Muhanjili, complained that officials and chiefs in his area were taking chickens for Harambees from poor farmers who wanted to make their donations in cash.

The chickens are often raffled for more than the farmer would be expected to give in cash, Muhanjili said.

Some Kenyans are upset by such reports, saying Harambees are supposed to be a relatively painless way of raising money, because they are meant to be voluntary and fun.

Harambees are a major part of Kenya's social and political life. Politicians often host them and give large sums. In the last week of March, President Daniel Arap Moi gave a total of \$45,500 while Vice President Josephat Karanja gave \$2,100.

These donations are often in the name of a politician "and friends". Kenyans say making a donation to a politician to be given in turn at a Harambee is a way of cementing relations and in

some cases of ensuring favours.

There is some concern about how the money is actually used. Finance Minister George Saitoti, speaking at a ceremony in late March to present building materials for a school in central Kenya's Ngong hills, complained that some school officials in the area had misused Harambee funds.

Member of Parliament Paul Ruto Arap Chepkok says he was denied permission to hold a Harambee because he questioned the way his district commissioner used Harambee money.

"We have had differences at district development committee meetings because I want to know how money for... various projects has been utilised," he told parliament.

A lot of money — and a lot of politically valuable services — can be at issue. In Kenya, the need for schools and hospitals and other public facilities far outstrips the government's funding ability.

In March alone, Harambees reported in Kenyan newspapers raised a total of \$3.4 million mainly for schools. Dozens more were not reported.

In contrast, the government budgeted \$3.8 million to build schools this year.

"The movement (Harambee) has been responsible for the mobilisation of large quantities of capital development resources

providing for a wide variety of basic needs," the government said in its latest development plan.

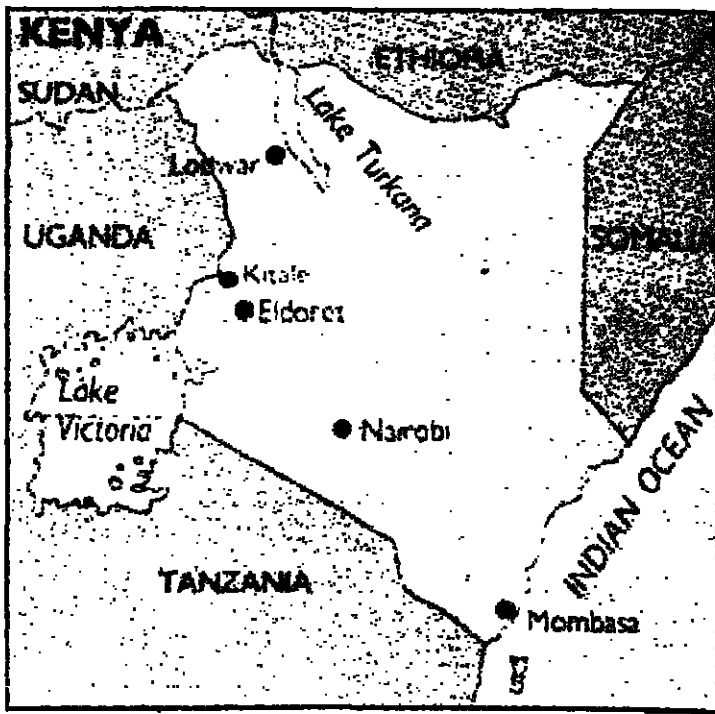
Kenya is moving to audit Harambees funds and their use. Harambees have built dozens of rural schools and hospital wards, and in 1984, the last year for which national statistics are available, accounted for just under four per cent. Equal to about \$27 million, of total capital investment.

The continuing squeeze on government finance means the pressure is on to raise more and more money through Harambees, among friends, within villages, whole districts or even on a nationwide basis.

Any Harambee much bigger than within a village is probably forced... it becomes a kind of tax," said one Nairobi accountant.

"Forced Harambees have become a permanent feature in some areas," complained Mwakena Wa Wadia, of Mombasa, in a letter to the daily Nation newspaper.

"I witnessed a very ugly incident... at Mikindani in Mombasa west where Kana (Kenya African National Union, the ruling party) youthwingers went from Kiosk to Kiosk demanding \$2.50 from women traders for the Harambee for the disabled," he said.



EC court upholds liberalisation of air fares

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The European Court of Justice, in a landmark judgment which could help cut air fares, ruled Tuesday that nearly all pricing pacts between airlines could violate European Community (EC) free competition policy.

The ruling is expected to help the EC's executive commission push member states and national airlines to agree new steps towards liberalising air transport.

At present, national airlines tend to fix air fares on international routes either through multilateral or bilateral agreements, a procedure attacked by critics as restricting competition and keeping air fares artificially high.

The commission has said that air transport should be treated like any other trade or service in the 12-nation EC, and should be made to follow free competition policy. But it has never been clear how the EC's free competition policy should be applied to air transport.

In its ruling, the Luxembourg-based court said all agreements between airlines — whether applying to domestic or international flights — could be outlawed as abusing a dominant position under article 86 of the EC's founding Treaty of Rome.

It also said according to between airlines on setting tariffs for flights between EC countries could be outlawed under article 85 of the treaty, which deals with free competition.

EC member states agreed in

1987 on a limited liberalisation of air transport. But the commission is expected to submit fresh proposals before the summer to open up routes to more carriers and increase the availability of discount fares.

The case was referred to the Court of Justice by a West German court, which is due to rule on a related issue involving a West German travel agency Ahmad Saeed Flugreisen.

In that case, the agency was accused of unfair competition for buying cut-price air tickets abroad to sell at lower rates than its competitors in West Germany.

A West German court will now make a final ruling on the Saeed case. But legal experts said that since the EC court had used the case as an opportunity to give a much broader ruling on air transport, it was unclear which way the ruling on the Saeed case would go.

EC to consider banking reciprocity changes

On another liberalisation issue, the EC will Thursday consider toning down controversial plans to submit foreign banks wishing to set up in the Community to a reciprocity test, EC officials said.

The proposal, part of EC plans

for a banking licence valid throughout its single market after 1992, has become the focal point for U.S. charges that the Community is building a protectionist "fortress Europe."

The officials said competition commissioner Sir Leon Brittan would ask fellow members of the European Commission, the EC's executive body, to soften the reciprocity provision, which the bloc says is necessary to ensure that its banks have access to foreign markets.

Brittan is keen to present an amended proposal to the 12 EC finance ministers, who have the final say on the banking legislation, when they meet in Luxembourg Monday.

"We wanted to make (the reciprocity clause) more clear and flexible and deal with the damaging confusion that has arisen from the original draft wording," said one EC official who was involved in drawing up the amendments.

Brittan and External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen insist that the reciprocity provi-

sion is needed because international trade rules for financial services are only now being negotiated in the Uruguay Round talks being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

From the moment there is a multilateral agreed framework, there is no reciprocity clause whatsoever," Andriessen told reporters last week.

Officials said Brittan's proposed changes address three key issues.

First, they formally define re-

ciprocity in terms of "national treatment," demanding that a non-EC country treats EC banks in exactly the same way as it treats its own banks.

Critics have said the original proposal was open to the interpretation that non-EC countries would have to give EC banks the same rights as banks enjoy in Community markets.

The United States, where banking legislation restricts the activities of all banks, has said such a provision would be totally unacceptable.

Debt burdens Arabian Gulf University

BAHRAIN (R) — The Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain owes millions of dollars to foreign contractors.

They are appealing to the seven founder states of the university — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — to settle the debt.

The South Korean, Taiwanese, Australian, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabian main contractors that built the \$100 million campus in Bahrain are owed about \$33 million in initial fees.

Interest and compensation for

additional costs could double that figure, industry sources said.

Jamil Ali Ebrahim, spokesman for the companies, said a meeting of the university's council of ministers last month had failed to resolve the problem.

"We are very disappointed at the council's failure to come up with any solutions at this late stage," he told Reuters. "The main contractors are losing patience and are on the verge of taking legal action."

Ebrahim said regular payments to South Korea's Daewoo Industrial Co., Taiwan's Ret Ser En-

gineering Agency, Saudi Arabia's Rabya Landscaping Ltd. and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)-Australian joint-venture Al Habtoor Leighton stopped in 1986, but they continued work, finishing the project in 1988.

Saudi Arabia was allocated 25 per cent of the costs as was Kuwait, Iraq 21 per cent, the UAE 15 per cent, Qatar nine per cent, and Bahrain and Oman 2.5 per cent each.

"The main issue is that the university hasn't got the money to pay the contractors," university spokesman Hisham Shehadi said.

Describing the situation as dismal, he said "some countries have paid to the last fil (cent) while others have paid nothing." He named Iraq and the UAE as non-payers.

Industry sources said the UAE owes the university nearly \$19 million.

Shehadi said Iraq, burdened by billions of dollars of foreign debt after its eight-year-long war with Iran, had told the council it was not in a position to pay.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had volunteered to divide its share equally between them, he said.

Strong demand for oil keeps prices high

LONDON (R) — A jittery market has been keeping oil prices near 19-month highs despite evidence that OPEC output is exceeding group quotas.

Prices, several traders and analysts said, reflect a feeling that demand for petroleum products especially in the United States and Asia may be firmer than was expected.

"I think consumption is very strong, stronger than had been thought," said Steve Turner at London brokerage Smith New Court. "It must be a great relief for OPEC. The revenue is manna from heaven for poorer producers like Nigeria."

Turner said the effects of supply hiccups like that caused by last month's Alaskan oil spillage were now "coming out of the system" but the market had not taken prices sharply down.

The U.S. benchmark crude, West Texas Intermediate, rose almost to \$21.50 a barrel right after the Valdez spill. It is still up around \$20.

That compares with \$12 in a glut last autumn before the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) introduced new output quotas for its 13 members.

Some traders say that a low volume for actual deals in spot market crude, particularly in

Europe, suggests that demand may not be quite as vigorous as it looks.

They say prices are being led by volatile futures markets.

Futures eased Wednesday on a report by the American Petroleum Institute that U.S. stocks of crude oil rose last week by 451,000 barrels after predictions that they might drop by anything up to five million.

Turner agreed it would be no surprise if prices "came back a little" soon, while a London report this week by brokerage Shearson Lehman Hutton was headed "crude coming off the boil" and concluded that "a pull back in prices must be expected in the next few weeks."

But it still projected that West Texas Intermediate would average \$18 in 1989, provided there was not a dramatic surge in production from OPEC.

OPEC supply is almost certainly

creeping up. Estimates by the West's International Energy Agency and the Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, an industry newsletter, reckon its output in March ran at between one and 1.5 million barrels daily above its self-imposed 18.5 million ceiling.

Several members led by the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Kuwait have exceeded quotas, industry sources say. Nigeria may also have sold a bit more of its petrol-rich crude because of

strong demand for motor fuels in the United States.

Even at 20 million barrels daily, however, OPEC supply is still well down on 23 million seen last autumn.

Meanwhile, analysts think that demand, after faltering in February but apparently picking up in March, should suffice in the April-June quarter to support 20 million OPEC barrels.

The market was intrigued Wednesday by a report from Iran's IRNA news agency which quoted an editorial in the Tehran Times as saying that recent OPEC discipline had followed "closed-door agreements" between the Iranian and the Saudi oil ministers.

Jerusalem Post staff protest 'inimical' buyers

TEL AVIV (R) — Editors and staff of the English-language newspaper, the Jerusalem Post, have publicly expressed concern about efforts by potential buyers, including British publisher Robert Maxwell, to take over the influential Israeli daily.

Israeli media have widely reported Maxwell's interest in the Post, which has been put up for sale by Israel Investors Corporation (IIC), a subsidiary of the troubled Koor Industries concern that owns a controlling stake.

The Post's editors, without naming Maxwell or other bidders, issued a statement Tuesday expressing their concern that the newspaper, a left-leaning daily with a relatively small but influential readership, might lose its editorial freedom in the sale.

"The editors of the Jerusalem Post, intent on safeguarding the editorial independence and journalistic integrity of the newspaper, have informed IIC that they cannot remain indifferent to a change in ownership and regard as inimical bids by individuals or groups which might prejudice the independence and character of the newspaper," the statement said.

The statement concluded: "This position of the editors has been endorsed by the editorial staff."

Last month Maxwell, a Czechoslovak-born Jew and chairman of Maxwell Communication Corp., publicly berated the Israeli daily Maariv, in which he owns a minority stake, for publishing a report that Israeli intelligence services told the cabinet Israel would have to talk to the PLO to end the 16-month-

old Palestinian uprising.

Throughout the Post's 57-year history, it has been linked to the centre-left Labour Party. Koor, the industrial empire of the Histadrut labour federation and Histadrut-owned Bank Hapoalim control the vast majority of the Post's shares.

But the daily has largely enjoyed editorial freedom and in the past few years has taken a more dovish line, sharply criticising even leading members of the Labour Party.

In addition to Maxwell, staff at the Post expressed concern about Arye Ganger, a U.S.-based Israeli businessman with close ties to right-wing industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon.

Israeli newspapers have said Ganger has so far made the highest bid for the Post, reported between \$3 and \$5 million.

Other interested parties include: Australian industrialist Richard Pratt, who owns leading Jewish newspapers in Australia

Clairidge, a Montreal-based investment group headed by Charles Bronfman, the Israeli mass-circulation daily Yedioth Ahronoth and the Israeli morning newspaper Haaretz.

The Post's maximum nationwide circulation is about 50,000 on Friday, the week's largest edition, but its readers include key government policy-makers and foreign diplomats. It also has a weekly international edition distributed globally.

The Post itself makes a small loss but its printing press contracts outside work and brings the whole corporation into the black, newspaper sources said.

Mexico reaches agreement with IMF

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico Tuesday signed a letter of intent with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), paving the way for it to become one of the first beneficiaries of Washington's new debt initiative.

Finance Minister Pedro Aspe, announcing the accord at a news conference, said the agreement will enable Mexico to return to growth.

"With this agreement the fund recognises the importance to

Mexico of returning to growth," Aspe said.

Mexico last year achieved sluggish expansion of just over one per cent, not nearly enough to keep pace with population growth.

Aspe said Mexico will receive a \$3.64 billion, three-year loan from the IMF, under its so-called extended fund facility (EFF) programme.

In addition, he said, Mexico hopes to receive \$500 million

from an IMF facility designed to help countries cope with unforeseen falls in foreign exchange income.

The Mexican finance minister said a significant proportion of the loans will be used to support debt reduction operations.

Under the debt initiative announced by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on March 10, the IMF and World Bank would make funds available to support debt reduction opera-

tions and collateralise interest payments.

Mexico, owing \$100 billion, is the second biggest debtor country in the developing world after Brazil.

It last signed a letter of intent for an IMF standby accord in July 1986, and reached agreement with the World Bank for a \$2.3 billion loan programme for 1986 and 1987.

Aspe told the news conference he hopes to conclude negotiations in the next few days with the World Bank on a \$1.5 billion loan package.

Talks would also begin shortly with Mexico's official creditors in the Paris Club, he said.

Tin trading to resume in London from June

LONDON (R) — The London Metal Exchange (LME) said Wednesday it will resume tin trading from June, 3½ years after a commercial crisis halted official business in the metal.

LME chief executive Michael Brown said tin trading would start June 1 after an LME board decision based on the needs of the world tin trade.

Relaunch of the LME's daily tin trading periods means produc-

ers, dealers and consumers will again have a transparent marketplace for a metal which has been regaining its popularity.

Brown said the board felt strongly that member nations of the International Tin Council (ITC) should "right the wrong" that resulted in suspension of the tin contract in October, 1985.

The ITC, which aimed to stabilise world tin prices by buying when prices were low and selling

when they were high using a so-called buffer stock of the metal, ran out of funds causing a price crash which forced the LME to halt trading.

On commodity markets, a contract provides the precise specifications such as price, delivery point and delivery date laid down by a futures market to denote a standard trading unit.

Since the suspension of LME trading, European tin trading has been conducted by telephone.

The LME feels able to restart tin trading following a ruling by a British court in March that it acted properly when confronted with the price collapse, traders said.

The crisis has caused a huge legal wrangle involving fortunes. Tin prices plunged from more than £10,000 (now \$17,000) a tonne in June, 1985, to a 10-year low of £3,400 (\$5,780) in March 1986.

But recently things have been looking up for tin and the Third World countries which produce it.

Tin-coated steel has been gaining ground against aluminium in the beer and soft drinks canning industries.

Tin consumption in non-socialist countries has risen from around 150,000 tonnes in 1985 to

an estimated 165,000 tonnes last year, while output has tailed off slightly to around 155,000 tonnes, analysts said.

This, together with stricter export controls by leading producing countries, has helped lift prices to three-year highs.

Spot tin traded on the free market Wednesday morning up to \$10.150 a tonne, its highest since March, 1986.

Wednesday the LME board urged ITC member countries and creditor representatives to reach a "satisfactory and equitable conclusion" over money.

A meeting of an informal ITC committee is under way in London this week to discuss a possible out of court settlement of the litigation which followed the collapse of the council.

Two major changes in the new contract compared with the one which ceased trading in 1985 are that it is in dollars, not sterling, and now only high grade tin is quoted, whereas before standard was also traded.

The warehouses where metal can be delivered are the same as under the old contract.

The tin price has been boosted by export controls imposed by the Association of Tin Producing Countries (ATPC) which have substantially reduced excess world stocks.

Kuala Lumpur tin traders said earlier Wednesday that an ATPC decision this week to release over 8,000 tonnes of tin onto the market to relieve supply tightness is unlikely to dampen the price surge.

The ATPC, which groups Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Zaire, Bolivia, Nigeria and Australia, estimates the world stock surplus at 30,350 tonnes at end-March 1989.

Income Tax Department urges payment of dues before end of this month

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Income Tax Department has urged all taxpayers to submit statements about their income in 1988 before the end of April 1989, the last date fixed for that purpose.

Department Director Salman Al Tarawneh said that as of the coming month taxpayers submitting statements for the 1988 income will have to pay a two per cent fine on the total amount of income tax.

After processing the 1988 income statements, the department normally calculates the amount of tax required from each taxpayer which can be settled during 1989.

Taxpayers settling their dues in the first three months of the year usually benefit from a discount which the department offers as an incentive to make the collection as early as possible.

According to Tarawneh, a fine of up to 24 per cent could be imposed on those failing to pay their annual or accumulated income tax to the department.

In some cases, Tarawneh noted, the department accepts an arrangement allowing the taxpayer to settle his dues in monthly instalments over a period of six to 18 months.

Merger of U.S., U.K. firms creates world's 2nd biggest drug group

LONDON (R) — Britain's Beecham and Smithkline Beecham of the United States Wednesday agreed to merge, forming the second largest pharmaceutical group in the world.

The new company, Smithkline Beecham, will be based in Britain.

The companies said in a statement Wednesday the deal would "create a truly global business" and "produce substantial synergies and a financial performance expected to be superior to that which either company could achieve alone."

Firstly for the treatment of heart disease and arthritis with compounds planned for the longer term to treat asthma, Alzheimer's disease and AIDS.

The two companies will start joint promotion of several drugs, including Smithkline's Tagamet, immediately. Tagamet is the second biggest selling ulcer drug next to Zantac, made by Glaxo Holdings PLC of Britain.

Tagamet sales fell last year and it goes off patent in the United States in 1994. Analysts said the deal would cushion the effects of this.

The new company will be just about equally owned by the two companies in what one share trader said was a fairly compli-

cated deal.

A joint statement said Smithkline Beecham would be the world's second biggest drug firm in sales terms, second in over the counter medicine and fourth in animal health.

Annual sales would be over £3.7 billion (\$6.3 billion). New Jersey-based Merck and Co. of the United States keeps its tag as the world's biggest.

Beecham Group PLC, whose products include Beecham's powders, the heart-attack drug Esmine, Tums and Somnex sleeping powders was ranked 20 in the international prescribed drug market.

The British company, which also sells Yardley leather cosmetics and the famous Brylcreem hair cream, said it would sell its cosmetics and fragrance business for cash, plus certain other non-core businesses.

Philadelphia-based Smithkline Beecham Corp., which makes hypertension remedy Dyazide and cold relief Contac, is ranked number eight in the pharmaceutical market.

Prior to a statement by the two companies on April 2 that a possible merger was being discussed, there were months of speculation that Smithkline might be taken over.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, April 12, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	84.5	85.2
Pound Sterling	908.7	916.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	404.8	408.6
Deutschemark	285.3	287.8	Dutch guilder	232.9	235.4
Swiss franc	322.8	326.5	Swedish crown	33.9	34.6
			Italian lira (for 100)	38.9	39.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	136.4	137.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	1.6905/15	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1882/92	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8848/55	Deutschemark
	2.1265/75	Dutch guilders
	1.6645/55	Swiss francs
	39.44/47	Belgian francs
	6.3610/60	French francs
	1381/1382	Italian lire
	132.82/92	Japanese yen
	6.4070/4120	Swedish crowns
	6.8340/90	Norwegian crowns
	7.3260/3310	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	384.00/384.50	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Investor confidence in blue chip industrial stocks helped lift the Australian share market to a firmer close. The All Ordinaries Index rose 6.2 points to 1,420.9.

TOKYO — Prices rose-sawed through the day to end mixed in moderate trade. The Nikkei Index finished up 6.87 at 3,256.45.

HONG KONG — Renewed interest from overseas and diminished concerns about a rights issue by Hopewell Holdings reactivated trade and boosted share prices. The Hang Seng Index rose 34.16 points to 3,060.16.

SINGAPORE — Another hectic day of trading saw the Straits Times industrial index rise 27.59 to a new post-crash high of 1,219.02, surpassing Tuesday's 1,201.43. Turnover broke the previous record high of 123.9 million shares with 166.9 million.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell on a broad front, undermined by widespread institutional profit-taking after the market opened subdued. Tata Steel fell 30 rupees to 1,282.5.

FRANKFURT — Shripping off an arson attack that delayed the start of trading, shares rallied on technical factors to close just below new highs for the year set at around the opening. The Dax index rose 12.31 to 1,381.66.

ZURICH — Shares closed easier but above the day's lows. Prices edged down quietly from a steady opening on selected profit-taking. The All-Share Swiss Index fell 4.7 to 1,023.7.

PARIS — Midday share prices were mixed after a firm opening, with operators cautious before Friday's U.S. February trade figures and March producer prices.

LONDON — Shares were mixed in quiet late trading after an early surge which followed details of the proposed Beecham/Smithkline link-up to form the world's second largest pharmaceutical company. At 1440 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up five at 2,036.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks gained in morning trading with the help of programme buying and persistent recent gains. The Dow was up five at 2,316.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ljubojevic leads World Chess Cup

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia remained atop the standings Tuesday in the World Chess Cup tournament after four adjourned matches were finished. Alexander Beliavsky, Soviet Union, defeated Boris Spasski, France, in one of the matches played Tuesday. In the other matches, Robert Hübner, West Germany, defeated Viktor Korchnoi, Switzerland; Valery Salov, Soviet Union, stopped Jesus Nogueiras, Cuba; and reigning world champion Garry Kasparov, Soviet Union, beat Jonathan Speelman, Britain.

Canada's Olympic boy wonder dies

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan (AP) — George Genevux, Canada's boy wonder of Olympic gold medals more than 30 years ago, died Monday after battling ill health for decades. He was 54. "He was saying the Rosary when he died," said his sister, Carol Fraser of Seattle. "He'd been in a hospital since Easter, and on Sunday he just decided he was going to die. He started to phone his friends to say goodbye." At a 17-year-old student at Saskatoon's Nutana Collegiate, Genevux summed the trapezoidal world when he won the gold medal at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

Navy 21, Soviets 1

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (AP) — The U.S. Naval Academy team took advantage of a flood of Soviet errors and walks, scoring 10 runs on three hits in the first inning en route to a 21-1 victory over a Soviet national team Tuesday in exhibition baseball. The game was the first of a 12-game U.S. tour for the Soviets. Soviet pitchers walked eight, hit four batters, threw eight wild pitches and had three passed balls in the game. Centrefielder Chris Angle went 2-for-2 with two runs scored and three RBIs to lead Navy. Despite the 21 runs, just one of Navy's 12 hits was for extra bases. The Soviets committed eight errors. The Soviets, who had three hits, scored their only run in the fifth inning on their first hit of the game, a double by Leonid Komeyev to score Sergey Zingalov. Zingalov reached first on a fielder's choice and scored on the double.

Liverpool goes back to top

LONDON (AP) — Goals by John Barnes and John Aldridge gave Liverpool a 2-1 road victory at Millwall Tuesday night and sent the defending English League champion back to top of the standings on goal difference from Arsenal. Liverpool, which plays in the F.A. Cup semifinals next Saturday and is on course for another league and cup double, won its 11th straight game as it rallied after conceding an eighth-minute Denis Salmon goal to take all three points. Barnes tied it at 21 minutes with a header and Aldridge struck a controversial winner four minutes before halftime. The Millwall players and fans reacted angrily to the goal, Aldridge's 22nd of the season, claiming John Barnes was clearly offside in the build-up. The linesman in fact had raised his flag for offside but it was ignored by the referee, who let the goal stand. Millwall surged forward in the second half and Dean Horrix hit the bar.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK763 ♥983 ♦854 ♣1043
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ 2♠ 3♥
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q76 ♥Q183 ♦Q873 ♣Q52
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K652 ♥J42 ♦72 ♣865
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
3♥ Pass 4♥
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠762 ♥Q10954 ♦AK8 ♣63
The bidding has proceeded:

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

NBA Round-up

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Nance returned from a two-game layoff to score 20 points and Ron Harper converted a steal by Nance into the tie-breaking basket with 1:55 left Tuesday night as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Philadelphia 76ers 92-90.

Nance, who missed two games because of a sore tendon in his left calf, scored 11 points in the third quarter to help Cleveland build a 13-point lead late in the period. But Philadelphia, which allowed only 17 points in the fourth period, tied the score 86-86 when Hershey Hawkins made a short bank shot with 2:36 to play.

On the 76ers' next possession, Nance deflected a pass in the lane, and Harper drove for the layup that put Cleveland ahead for good.

The victory was Cleveland's 30th in its last 31 home games, including eight in a row.

Mark Price finished with 19 points and 13 assists for the Cavaliers, who trail Detroit by a 2½ games for the Central Division lead.

In other games in the National Basketball Association Tuesday:

Bucks 125, Nets 93

Ricky Pierce's 19 points and Milwaukee's two scoring spurs, one closing the first half

and the other opening the second, lifted the Bucks to a 125-93 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Terry Cummings added 16 points while Jack Sikma had 15 points and 14 rebounds for the Bucks, whose 47th victory represents a single-season high for Del Harris in six years of coaching in the NBA.

Rockets 108, Pacers 99

Otis Thorpe scored 26 points and injured Mike Woodson came off the bench for 21 as the Houston Rockets clinched a playoff berth by defeating the Indiana Pacers 108-99.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Circumstances and mood change throughout the day. The focus is optimistic, but it will be hard to channel energy into productive activities. Conversation will flow and relationships flourish.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You enter a relationship impulsively because you prefer to do things with company. Advice may not be well received.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Goals and dreams are pursued with great fervor. A conflict can shatter a friendship if you are not understanding.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are influenced by social companions. Avoid getting along with beyond your physical capacities. Your peers look up to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You are magnetic and expressive, which can attract admirers. Sexual self-expression can follow an evening sojourn.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You desire social status and success. Boredom is a cross to bear, but usually does not last long. You enjoy the dramatic.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Someone helps you finish a project. You are a top performer at the workplace. The financial picture improves with a reorganized budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An aggressive individual is difficult to understand. You resent having

ideas pushed upon you. A flirtatious mood means more to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Focus on personal affairs. Your selected lifestyle, working environment and social peers for re-evaluation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It can be an adventurous day if you follow through with a companion's plans. Love is rocky, but affectionate and worthwhile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are asked to make a risky choice, but prefer the longer, safer route. Family members may be unsettled and bored.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) An authority figure, and ally, has your control events to your advantage. Be frugal with finances.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You become closer to someone attractive. A change is coming, and you can control events to your advantage. Be frugal with finances.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY He or she will be straightforward, have boundless energy and need enterprising projects that get recognition and praise. Your child will seek to be socially popular and will lose or gain from friends. Steer your child toward music and drama.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you! © 1989, McNaughton Synd.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Interesting and offbeat opinions surface today. You may be surprised at comments and loose verbal play spoken by those who usually never do that. Sentiment expressed today may not be as sincere tomorrow.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You consider a new mission that can lead to pleasure, romance and profit. Only consider changes that is a distinct advantage.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may need help someone less fortunate. A romantic tie may be more serious than expected. It is difficult for you to refuse a favor.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A pleasant surprise brings variety into your life. A gift can arrive without your knowing it. Your workday can end early.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You are attracted to someone whom you know. You remain popular with friends. An introduction produces a valuable contact.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Plan to do more with your spare time this weekend. An optimistic attitude will be with you for several days. Plan a cultural sojourn.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A hobby could be expanded into a vocation if it keeps enlarging. Buy items for your personal wardrobe. Enthusiasm is your current style.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are upset when the love is not returned. Remember everyone is not an extrovert and may have difficulty demonstrating affection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are respected. Others see you as an example to follow. What you try will be successful if you analyze the whole picture before acting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are on firm ground when it comes to business. Domestic adjustments will be needed to reorganize the evening plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You meet an important deadline at the workplace. Reviewing work procedures will produce new systems and efficiency schedules.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Normally you love people and are attracted to groups, except for this weekend when you prefer quiet and rest. Plan a garage sale.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may feel trapped when you are bored. An overseas premise is kept by a not-so-friendly relative. Creative ideas flourish today.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY He or she will be cooperative and openminded, with a positive attitude and outlook that attracts others. Your son or daughter may be a prominent member or leader of their peer group. Social and career guidance will be important in order to mold talents.

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates

ACROSS

- Four-letter game
- Van type
- Cardplayer's act
- Barbara or
- Having a share
- Rotation focus
- Selfish club
- Sketch: abbr.
- Opening
- Rips unfairly
- Telet
- Slender
- Up (score)
- Boggle
- Dear
- Die (all-out)
- Likely
- Played out
- Months
- Accounter
- Imitate
- Short on looks
- Attempt
- Cooperstown's
- Walls — for
- Hamlet's
- Cronies
- Presidential monogram
- Reveals plans
- Artist Miro
- Hope letters
- Chisel's kin
- Stone or
- Found
- Of the moon
- Max or Buddy
- Mist
- Started a card game
- DOWN
- "Love You"
- Sculls
- Tie feature
- Lab
- Whisper-snapper
- Center
- "What's — for me?"
- Certain role
- Expert
- Concentrate
- Time zone
- Cooperstown's
- Cruyer
- Fool
- Max
- Seed coat
- Swagelok
- Native
- Dopes
- "Swan Lake"
- Small boys
- Spot
- Loopy
- Curious
- Greenish hue
- Not by a long shot
- Suit stuff
- Small boys
- Observe
- Pigment type
- Hold up
- Pop
- Overcast
- Slime
- Scand. land
- Together in music
- Famed caravan
- Twist
- Poke
- "A-Team" name

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN: 1. What's — for me? 2. Certain role 3. Expert 4. Concentrate 5. Time zone 6. Cooperstown's 7. Cruyer 8. Fool 9. Max 10. Seed coat 11. Swagelok 12. Native 13. Dopes 14. "Swan Lake" 15. Small boys 16. Spot 17. Loopy 18. Curious 19. Greenish hue 20. Not by a long shot 21. Suit stuff 22. Small boys 23. Observe 24. Pigment type 25. Hold up 26. Pop 27. Overcast 28. Slime 29. Scand. land 30. Together in music 31. Famed caravan 32. Twist 33. Poke 34. "A-Team" name

Williams denies drug use

TORONTO (AP) — Sprinter Desai Williams denied Tuesday that he began taking steroids along with teammate Ben Johnson in 1981.

Charlie Francis, who coached Canada's sprint team through the 1988 summer Olympics, has identified Williams as one of the athletes who for years took the banned drugs.

"Charlie knew my thoughts on anabolic steroids," Williams told a federal inquiry into drugs in amateur sport, adding he was opposed to the drugs.

Williams, 29, said Francis took him to see Dr. Gunter Helge Koch of Toronto in 1981 where he had a physical examination. He said Francis then broached the subject of steroids, but Koch was opposed to the idea.

"The doctor said: 'No, this is a strong young guy, I don't think it's necessary.' He said: 'I don't want to get involved in this.'"

Williams said he and Francis left the doctor's office and the coach handed him a bottle of steroid pills.

"I was startled," said Williams, adding he later threw the bottle away.

Williams said he did not throw the pills away in front of Francis because "I knew Charlie's outlook on steroids. I had to do things his way or I took the highway."

Williams, who still is competing, won a bronze medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics as part of Canada's 1,600-metre relay team. He also made the finals in the 100 metres at last fall's Seoul Olympics.

Johnson won the event but was later disqualified for steroid use, sparking the federal inquiry.

Earlier Tuesday, commissioner Charles Dubin criticized the administration of special trust funds set up for amateur athletes

by the Canadian Track and Field Association.

The inquiry has heard how Johnson made lavish purchases, including a sports car worth \$275,000, during his rise to prominence before the Seoul games.

The purchase were made despite rules saying an amateur athlete's earnings are to be held in trust by the association until the athlete retires.

"It's a pure subterfuge to put it through a fund if the athlete can take whatever he wants at any time," said Dubin.

Johnson's financial adviser told the inquiry Monday that he gave the runner bundles of cash earned at track meets and through endorsement contracts but never worried the money might be used to buy steroids.

Ross Earl said Johnson's earnings began to soar after setting the 100-metre world record in Rome in 1987.

Marital bliss on the golf course...

NEW YORK (AP) — The caddy shouldering the golf bag looks familiar, but out of place.

Shouldn't he be wearing a baseball uniform, and swinging a bat?

For 18 years, until this spring, he did.

Ray Knight, most valuable player of the 1986 World Series, is caddying for his wife, Nancy Lopez, on the LPGA tour.

"It's something I've always wanted to do. I can be with her out here and the family more. I've enjoyed it," said Knight, recently retired from an 18-year career, the last 13 in the major leagues.

"I know a lot of people tease him about carrying my bag, but he's my best friend, not just my husband," said Lopez, an LPGA Hall of Famer. "I want him here."

"With ray out here, I can play a lot of tournaments and try to become the leading money winner again."

Knight said his new job, "is not as easy as it looks."

"He knows what he's doing out there," said Lopez, who will be among the favorites in the \$450,000 AJ star-Centennial Hospital classic that starts Friday at Rancho Park in Los Angeles.

So far there have been virtually no family spats on the course.

But, recalling the Kemper Open earlier this year, Knight said, "we had a disagreement with club selection. I thought she should use a 4-iron to the green and she wanted to hit a 5-iron."

Lopez proceeded to hit the 5-iron short and into the water.

"I ended up saying, 'see, you never listen to me. If you don't, why ask me?' It was a stupid statement for me to make, very stupid," Knight said.

"I've been in baseball 18 years, so I know about competition, understanding pressures, failures and successes."

"So I can relate to what Nancy's feeling. I know when to say something and when not to."

And Knight's advice should carry a certain amount of weight — he did, after all, beat his wife at golf once, some three years ago. He shot a par 72 to beat her by one shot.

U.S. Olympic committees clash on \$160m assets

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — U.S. Olympic Committee President Robert Helms is leading an effort by the USOC to gain control of the Olympic Foundation and its \$160-million investment portfolio.

The Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, a daily newspaper, reported that Helms contends the USOC could save \$350,000 by absorbing functions of the foundation's Colorado Springs office into the USOC.

The Olympic Foundation was chartered in 1984 to invest a surplus of \$110 million from the Los Angeles Summer Games and a programme of selling commemorative Olympic coins. Since then, the investment portfolio has grown to \$160 million.

The move to absorb the foundation and eliminate the foundation office, as well as to change

Miller's position from President to President Emeritus, first was proposed in February. The USOC Administrative Committee asked the executive board to consider the proposal. The motion was not acted upon at that time to give foundation officials an opportunity to respond.

The Gazette Telegraph said a vote could be taken by the USOC executive board at its next meeting, scheduled for June 2-4 in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Don't want to fight this," said Helms. "It's a problem with prior presidents and executive directors. It's hard to give up. It's hard to let go. Don has been a wonderful thing for the Olympic movement. But what we're aiming at is high efficiency."

The move to absorb the foundation and eliminate the foundation office, as well as to change

U.K. minister halts euphoria

PALEMELA, Portugal (AP) — The British government reacted with cool reserve to a surprise decision by soccer's ruling body to allow English clubs to compete in three major European championships next year.

The English clubs had been banned because of violence by their fans at past matches and British officials warned that Tuesday's decision by UEFA would only stay intact if the fans behaved themselves.

Tuesday's decision was announced by Jacques Georges, President of the Union of European Football Associations during a meeting at Palmela, South of Lisbon. It was hailed by English clubs and governments and soccer authorities all over Europe.

"Delighted," was the simple reaction of a grinning Graham Kelly, chief executive of England's Football Association, who presented the English case to UEFA's executive committee.

UEFA imposed the ban after 39 people died during rioting before the European Champions' Cup final between Liverpool and Italy's Juventus Turin in May 1985 at Heysel stadium in Brussels.

UEFA blocked English bids for readmission in 1986 and 1987. The association withdrew its application in 1988 after English fans fought street battles with Dutch and German supporters during the European nations' championship last June in West Germany.

Kelly, whose pessimism before Tuesday's meeting turned to euphoria, said, "Georges has given us the light at the end of the tunnel."

But British sports minister Colin Moynihan, who refused to

back the association's bid for readmission to this year's European Cup Winners' Cup, Champions' Cup and UEFA Cup competitions, was more reticent.

Speaking on a satellite television broadcast, he welcomed the move, but said it "wasn't an automatic passport back to Europe."

A spokesman in Moynihan's office said the minister welcomed the decision for reentry in 1990-91, but said "it means that if there is any trouble at the World Cup caused by English fans, that is bound to make a difference."

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THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Whenever I use antiseptic mouthwash I could swear I hear millions of dying germs screaming in agony!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INVEG

HERIK

FRUIPY

YEMMAH

WHAT THE MAN WHO INVENTED ROPE BUILT FOR HIMSELF.

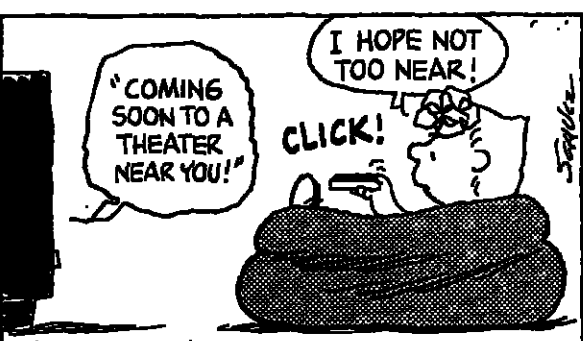
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: NOOSE PIPER KIMONO HERMIT

Answer: What she thought she'd do when her boyfriend's car needed a new muffler — KILT HIM ONE

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Nujoma recalls fighters but few seen

Confusion mounts in Namibian standoff

LUANDA (Agencies) — South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) President Sam Nujoma has broadcast a message by radio to his guerrilla fighters in northern Namibia, telling them to stop fighting and return to Angola, U.N. diplomats said Wednesday.

But the message's text in English, broadcast several times Tuesday from the Angolan capital Luanda did not mention U.N. assembly points in Namibia to receive the embattled SWAPO guerrillas.

The diplomats said the omission would only add to confusion already surrounding a scheme for the withdrawal of the SWAPO guerrillas agreed between South Africa, Angola and Cuba Sunday to end fighting between SWAPO and South African-led security forces which claimed at least 290 lives.

Diplomats said the message appeared to urge SWAPO guerrillas to make their way directly to Angola, bypassing the nine border assembly points set up and staffed by forces of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group for Namibia (UNTAG).

"Your leadership, your army, your commanders, your doctors and other medical officers are ready to receive you," Nujoma said in his message, a test of which was obtained by Reuters.

U.N. soldiers in Namibia say only a few guerrillas have so far come in from the bush and reported to the assembly posts, whose siting has been criticised by soldiers and diplomats in

Namibia as being too close to South African military positions. SWAPO Wednesday accused South Africa of jamming its radio appeals.

"Just try listening to the broadcasts... they are being massively jammed by the South Africans," SWAPO Information Secretary Hideo Hamutenya said in Luanda.

Angry SWAPO officials also rejected out of hand a statement by the South African administrator-general for Namibia, Louis Pienaar, that his forces expected to be able to interrogate SWAPO guerrillas who turned themselves over to U.N. forces.

"No one is going to turn up at the assembly points under these conditions," one SWAPO official said.

SWAPO officials complained that South African-led police and troops manning the assembly posts would outnumber U.N. forces there.

SWAPO is pressing the United Nations and Angola for clarification of the withdrawal agreement, now that Nujoma has appealed in his message for the guerrillas to withdraw.

South Africa claims that some 1,900 guerrillas infiltrated northern Namibia starting April 1,

violating an agreement calling for the rebels to stay at bases in Angola until later in the peace process.

Territorial officials said Tuesday the United Nations had agreed that police, under U.N. supervision, could interrogate guerrillas who report to the checkpoints. The questioning was to cover deployment of other insurgents and the whereabouts of possible arms caches.

Diplomats noted Nujoma's message made no mention of what the SWAPO guerrillas should do with their arms. South African authorities said the fighters were heavily-armed with automatic rifles, rocket propelled grenades and SAM-7 missiles.

The scheme to confine the guerrillas to bases inside Angola aims to save the U.N. independence plan for South African-ruled Namibia.

"We have decided to order you to stop the fighting and to report to the People's Republic of Angola," Nujoma said, adding: "Do not initiate fighting, even if the enemy provokes you. You are ordered to fight only in strict acts of self-defence."

Angolan military sources said many guerrillas were hiding their uniforms and weapons and taking refuge in local villages.

SWAPO blames the U.N.'s special representative for Namibia, Finnish diplomat Martti Ahtisaari, for letting South Africa send troops against its fighters when violence started April 1.



South African policemen lower the body of a killed SWAPO fighter into a mass grave in northern Namibia

Colombo invites JVP to talks

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The government Wednesday suspended military operations against anti-government rebels to enable them to give up arms and surrender under a peace plan, officials said.

The week-long unilateral ceasefire began at 6 a.m. (0130 GMT), said an official.

Against the backdrop of the truce, the government also invited left-wing Sinhalese rebel leaders for talks with President Ranasinghe Premadasa on ending their bloody campaign to seize power.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said in a statement that the president was willing to meet leaders of the leftist People's Liberation Front at a place of their choice.

"The government is pleased to invite the leader of the JVP (People's Liberation Front), Rohana Wijeweera, or him and Mr. Upatissa Gamanayake, the general secretary, to meet with His Excellency the President," Wijeratne said.

He said if that was not possible the government was willing to hold talks with a nominee of the group.

"If the JVP wishes, His Excellency (president) is willing to invite leaders of any other political party also to participate in the discussions," the statement said.

The front, which goes by its Sinhalese initials JVP, has been blamed for a string of political killings in a campaign against the presence in Sri Lanka of 45,000 Indian troops trying to end a separatist rebellion by the island's Tamil minority.

Premadasa offered the truce to Tamil and Sinhalese militants. During the truce, the military would suspend operations against the rebels.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the main Tamil rebel group, Tuesday rejected the ceasefire saying they would surrender only after all Indian troops have been withdrawn.

The JVP has not yet reacted to the truce offer. Officials said two gunmen of the front Tuesday shot and killed the twin brother of a senior military official.

The gunmen broke into Sarat Alagana's house, located eight kilometres southeast of the city centre, and shot him, officials said.

Record price per carat

NEW YORK (R) — A blue diamond fetched \$2.09 million and a pink diamond \$1.26 million at auction Tuesday, setting world records for the highest price ever paid per carat for each kind of diamond, Christie's auction house said. Laurence Graff, of the British company Graff Diamonds Ltd, paid a record \$296,454 per carat for the 7.05-carat blue pear-shaped stone and \$408,064 per carat for the 3.14-carat pink stone. The pink diamond sale broke the record set in May 1988 when a 5.57-carat pink pear-shaped diamond was sold in Geneva for \$278,270 per carat, the Christie's statement said. The diamond, sold along with 15 other diamonds from the Argyle mine in western Australia, is the largest gem-quality pink diamond ever retrieved from the largest diamond-producing mine in the world, the Christie's statement said. The blue-diamond sale eclipsed the record set in New York in October 1987 when a 10.07-carat ring sold for \$218,470 per carat.

Former sheep shearer becomes earl

LINCOLN, England (AP) — Edward Fienness-Clinton, a former Australian sheep shearer who is the new earl of Lincoln, received a guided tour of his family seat in northeast England Tuesday. "This is the first time I've seen Lincoln," he said. "I like it. The city's nice and so are the people." Fienness-Clinton, 75, visiting Britain for only the second time, said he hopes to take advantage of the only real perk offered by his title — a seat in the House of Lords, the unelected upper chamber of parliament. When the Duke of Newcastle, who was also the earl of Lincoln, died on Christmas day, historians began a frantic search for the new earl. It led to Fienness-Clinton's shack in Bunbury, western Australia, 160 kilometres south of Perth.

Sarah's battle of the bulge

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — The Duchess of York says eating vegetables helped her lose weight, and she made the revelation in, of all places, a chocolate factory filled with temptation. The staff at the Cadbury Chocolate plant in Birmingham had praised the duchess for the weight she had lost. But the 29-year-old wife of Prince Andrew, who in August gave birth to their first child, Princess Beatrice, said the effort has been a nightmare. "I eat raw vegetables — lots of raw vegetables. I am still trying, but it is very hard," the former Sarah Ferguson said. Confronted with wall-to-wall chocolates during her five-hour visit to the factory, the duchess refused to give in to temptation. She did take home a box of cream eggs and some handmade chocolates called "royal household."

Jacobs kicks off fashion week

NEW YORK (R) — Boy wonder designer Marc Jacobs kicked off the first major show of the New York autumn fashion previews with blanket shawls that could as easily decorate furniture as women. Jacobs, the 25-year-old bright hope of the faltering Perry Ellis firm, drew a standing room crowd of 1,400 buyers and fashion editors Monday. The preview is the first of dozens to be held this week by American fashion manufacturers. Among the 101 new designs created by Jacobs, one of New York's most talked about fashion designers of recent years, are fringed full-size wool shawls with stars and stripes inspired by Jasper Johns paintings and manufactured by Claridge of Scotland.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MM	MAX	MIN	W
AMSTERDAM	08	47	12	54 Cloudy
ATHENS	12	54	22	72 Cloudy
BANGKOK	20	86	30	86 Cloudy
BANGKOK	27	81	35	95 Clear
BELGIUM ARES	11	51	20	68 Clear
CARRO	14	57	30	68 Clear
CHICAGO	-04	25	09	49 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	10	50	16	61 Clear
FRANKFURT	12	54	20	68 Cloudy
GENOVA	06	49	20	68 Cloudy
HONG KONG	18	65	26	68 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	08	46	17	68 Clear
LONDON	07	45	12	54 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	16	60	19	65 Cloudy
MADRID	08	43	17	63 Cloudy
MECCA	22	72	27	81 Cloudy
MIAMI	08	46	17	63 Clear
MOSCOW	08	46	17	63 Clear
NEW DELHI	18	59	31	91 Clear
NEW YORK	01	34	12	53 Cloudy
PARIS	08	46	13	55 Clear
ROME	08	49	21	70 Cloudy
TOKYO	08	48	16	61 Cloudy
VIENNA	10	50	21	69 Clear

Concorde lands safely in Sydney despite missing tail

SYDNEY (R) — A supersonic Concorde flying at nearly twice the speed of sound lost part of its tail on a flight from New Zealand Wednesday but landed safely at Sydney airport.

Captain David Loney, pilot of the British Airways around-the-world charter with 100 Americans aboard, said he had no difficulty in handling the aircraft and made a perfect landing.

Air traffic controllers at Sydney airport ordered emergency landing procedures when they saw through binoculars that a

piece of the rudder, measuring about 60 by 90 centimetres, was missing from the tail of the aircraft.

Loney, 54, from Surrey, England, told reporters he learned that his plane had lost part of its rudder section only when told by traffic controllers after landing.

He said the first indication that something might be amiss was when there was a slight bang as the aircraft was climbing at 13,500 metres after leaving Christchurch New Zealand.

"We were then flying 1.8

times the speed of sound. My immediate reaction was something had hit the plane. But how can it happen at that height?" said Loney, who has been flying Concorde for 13 years.

"There was absolutely no indication what it was so we decided to carry on," he said.

"Then, while making the descent at Sydney an hour later, there was a vibration. It lasted two or three minutes but handling characteristics were normal."

"I was in total control and

did not at anytime feel that the passengers were in danger. I was, of course, shaken to see the missing part."

"I have never experienced like this before," he added. "Obviously something coming off the plane is serious. I don't know what caused it."

The 10-year-old aircraft, which had flown 10,000 hours, was the youngest in the Concorde fleet, Loney said. He dismissed metal fatigue as a possible cause and rejected suggestions that it was being pushed too hard on its globe-

girdling trip.

The passengers, who paid up to about \$40,000 for the 61,500-kilometre flight, were told that a panel might be loose but there was nothing to worry about.

"There was a terrible vibration. We realised something was definitely wrong. I was a little concerned," said a woman passenger who asked not to be identified.

"I prayed," said another. Two months ago British Airways gave its Concorde fleet the all clear after discovery of tiny cracks in the roof of one of

them prompted safety checks.

Similar checks were also carried out on Air France Concorde after the cracks were discovered during a routine maintenance check last October.

A prototype of the Anglo-French airliner first flew 20 years ago last month and it has been in commercial service since 1976, mainly on Transatlantic routes.

Concordes have been involved in a number of minor incidents but there have been no major accidents involving loss of life."

Tokyo opposition seeks coalition

TOKYO (R) — Four of Japan's opposition parties Wednesday began discussions on forming a coalition in the hope of using popular anger about corruption and a new sales tax to drive the ruling Liberal Democrats from power.

All the main opposition parties except the Japan Communist Party are involved in the talks, sparked by growing disaffection with the government over the Recruit scandal and a three per cent sales tax introduced April 1.

If the talks between the Japan Socialist Party, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party and the tiny social

democratic federation succeed, it will be the first opposition coalition since World War II.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has been in power continuously for the past 34 years, but the popularity rating of the current cabinet has dropped in recent weeks to around 10 per cent, an all-time low.

"We may have a chance this time, because we are acting along very realistic lines," said Shigeru Itoh, policy director of the Socialist Party, the largest opposition group.

Political analysts say most voters have traditionally viewed the policies of opposition parties on

many major issues as unrealistic, but there were signs of changes in some areas.

"Even if we came to power, we would not disband the self-defence force or abolish the Japan-U.S. security treaty and we will not shut down all the nuclear power plants," the Socialist Party's Itoh said in a telephone interview.

For months now the opposition parties have been demanding that Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita resign and call a general election as a result of the current scandal in which three cabinet ministers have been forced to resign.

Lockerbie couple take Pan Am to court

MIAMI (Agencies) — A Scottish couple seriously burned when their home was destroyed in the crash of a bomb-crippled Pan Am jet last year have become the first Lockerbie residents to sue the carrier in a U.S. court, attorneys said.

In a suit filed Tuesday in Dade circuit court in Miami, John and Janet Smith charged the airline and two Florida-based subsidiaries with negligence involving the Dec. 21 crash of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed all 259 people aboard and 11 others in the town of southern Scotland.

Stuart Speiser, a New York attorney representing the Smiths, said he expects to file nearly a dozen more suits in Miami on behalf of Lockerbie residents injured or killed when the Boeing 747 plunged nearly 9,500 metres after a bomb exploded in the cargo hold.

"We can expect the suits to come in the next couple of months," said Speiser, who competed with several other U.S. lawyers for the cases.

No specific compensation is cited in the suits, other than the \$50,000 minimum in damages required for filing in Dade circuit court.

Speiser said the figure will be decided prior to the jury trial sought by the suit, which names as defendants Pan American World Airways and two subsidiaries involved in security operations, Alert Management Services and Pan Am World Services.

Pan Am has offered \$100,000 each to relatives of those who died in the aircraft but, lawyers said, made no offer over casualties on the ground.

Aaron Podhurst, a Miami lawyer working on the suit, said victims on the ground are not covered by the provisions of the Warsaw Convention, which sets a limit of \$75,000 for death or injury on most international flights unless negligence can be proven in court.

'Death pavilion' head suspended

VIENNA (Agencies) — Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk Wednesday suspended the head of a clinic where four nurses have confessed to killing 49 elderly patients.

Zilk told Franz Pesendorfer, 51, he had been suspended so that investigations into the killings could continue "swiftly and impartially," the mayor's office said in a statement.

Earlier Zilk accused Pesendorfer of hampering investigations by refusing to give police information that could have brought the killings to light earlier.

Police have arrested four nurses who they say have confessed to killing the patients over the

past six years by giving them drug overdoses or suffocating them by forcing water into their lungs. A fifth nurse has been held as an accessory.

Police said they doubted the nurses' claim of "mercy killing" because of the methods used.

After a cabinet meeting Tuesday, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky spoke of the case as "the most brutal and gruesome crime in Austria's history."

The first deaths in the ward at Lainz Hospital, Vienna's fourth-largest, occurred in 1983 but most were reported in the last two years, police said. The ward has come to be known as "the death pavilion."

Nurses aides Maria Gruber, 25, Irene Leidolf, 27, Waltraud Wagner, 30, and Stephanie Mayner, 50, are in custody but no formal charges have been filed. Three were arrested Friday and one Sunday.

As nurses aides, the women carried out general duties of washing and feeding patients, but had no right to give injections, hospital officials said.

A fifth woman, Dorah Eugenie Ferrada-Avendano, was on vacation when a warrant for her arrest was issued, and went to police Tuesday to offer her help. Ferrada-Avendano is an Austrian citizen born in Chile.

Confusion shrouds fusion process

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite two tests that seem to confirm part of a cold nuclear fusion experiment, experts said Tuesday that more questions need to be answered before most scientists accept there has been a breakthrough.

"We're all mystified by this and watching it," said Dale M. Meade, head of fusion-reaction research at Princeton University in New Jersey. "It's the scientific way to be skeptical. That process is still going on."

Meade and others said the experiments announced Monday at Texas A-and-M University and Georgia Tech shed some light on what University of Utah officials

claim is a demonstration of fusion achieved at room temperature.

But most experts remain unconvinced that fusion has actually taken place and some suggest the phenomenon may be something new to science.

"They (Utah researchers) have taken the position that it was a fusion reaction," said John Soares, a fusion scientist at the University of Rochester in New York State. "But that has yet to proven."

"I think this whole thing may go down as one of the most bizarre episodes in 20th century science," he added.

In an announcement two weeks

ago, Stanley Pons of the University of Utah and Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton in England said they had achieved fusion using ordinary laboratory equipment.

Their experiment used a rod of palladium and a coil of platinum immersed in a beaker of deuterium, an isotope of hydrogen commonly found in seawater. Pons said that when electrical power was applied to the coil for about 100 hours, it forced deuterium atoms into the palladium until they finally fused, producing energy in the form of heat.

Pons claimed the device made four watts of energy for every watt of energy used.

12 found in human slaughterhouse

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Police Tuesday found the bodies of 12 people buried on a ranch south of the U.S.-Mexican border and officials said they were victims of human sacrifice by a satanic cult of drug smugglers.

"It was horrible," Cameron County Sheriff Alex Perez told a news conference. "It was like a human slaughterhouse."

Mexican federal police arrested four people, said Sheriff's Lieutenant George Gavito. Gavito said the suspects were U.S. and Mexican citizens, but did not identify them further.

The dead found by the Mexican federal police Tuesday included 21-year-old University of Texas student Mark Kilroy, who

vanished during his spring break last month while in the Mexican city of Matamoros, Gavito said.

Authorities declined to identify other victims, but said all were males. People believe two of them died after Kilroy.

The dead apparently were sacrificed by drug smugglers who believed satanic rituals would protect them from authorities, Gavito said.

He said the cult had been involved in human sacrifices for about nine months, praying to the devil "so the police would not arrest them, so bullets would not kill them and so they could make more money."

Authorities declined to describe evidence found at the ranch, but displayed some small colour

snapshots they said were taken there. One picture showed a cauldron containing a dark red liquid and what appeared to be bones. Another showed 12 body bags.

The 12 bodies were found Tuesday morning on a ranch about 32 kilometres west of Matamoros, along with evidence of voodoo or magic, Gavito said.

"I've been an investigator 15 years and it's one of the worst things I've ever seen," he said.

Kilroy, a pre-medical student, vanished from a crowded Matamoros street shortly after 2 a.m. March 14 while on a drinking foray with a group of friends in Matamoros, a city of 180,000 just across the Rio Grande from Brownsville.

Mexican drug baron charged

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Suspected drug boss Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, said to be Mexico's biggest drug trafficker, was charged Tuesday with possession, trafficking and transportation of illegal drugs.

"I don't know why they connect me with the cocaine business," he said after being read the charges in the 10th district penal court.

Felix Gallardo denied statements from a reputed drug trafficker that he used several airplanes used to transport drugs from South America to various parts of Mexico and sometimes across the border to the United States.

Nine others, including his aides and the chief federal anti-drug

official and five ranking police officers in Sinaloa, were arrested with him Saturday.

Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo Monday called Felix Gallardo "the No. 1 drug trafficker in Mexico."

The head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Mexico, Ed Heath, praised his capture, saying: "The impact it has on the drug market, we can say, is extremely significant."

Meanwhile, judicial police in the northwestern state of Sinaloa heavily patrolled Felix Gallardo's hometown of Culiacan, especially neighbourhoods where he owns property.

Soldiers, who arrested Culiacan's entire police force as narcotics agents closed in on Felix

Gallardo in the western city of Guadalajara, remained on duty.

In Guadalajara, special squads of the federal judicial police on Tuesday continued investigating people involved with Felix Gallardo.

Felix Gallardo, 43, was charged on the basis of a warrant issued in 1986 after the arrest of Hugo Devere Becerra. Devere Becerra was allegedly his business partner and said they were associated with other reputed drug traffickers, including Rafael Caro Quintero, arrested in the 1985 slaying of a U.S. narcotics agent.

According to Devere Becerra's testimony cash from their drug sales was brought back to Mexico in boxes of eggs.